



**TUESDAY 14 NOVEMBER 1995** 

AUTIFUL BOBBLES the material that ke the winter



in the dark

Pages of sales and marketing appointments WIN A SKI HOLIDAY TO COLORADO

Plus K2 skis and snowboards to be won, see page 14



# Prison crisis as jails run out of space

## eaked memo calls for action

JASON BENNETTO Crime Correspondent

Emergency measures are being drawn up to house new criminals because the nation's jails are at hursting point, the Prison Service has admitted in a confidential letter.

Jails in England and Wales are expected to be full by the end of the month, after reachmg a record 52,444 population last Friday.

The Prison Service has called an urgent meeting in the next fortnight with the Prison Officers' Association to discuss the crisis. The problem has been exacerbated by the refusal of some police forces to use their cells for the overspill. The Prison Service also says in its correspondence that it cannot afford the £300-a-night cost to house a criminal with the police. Instead, the service proposes to move inmates into local prisons. which usually are used for people on remand.

It has already been disclosed that some prisoners near to the end of their sentences are being moved to open prisons, where security is far more lax, to alleviate the overcrowding. David Evans, the POA ger

cral secretary, said last night that riots could break out soon, as the overcrowding is bound to get worse. Any prison disturbances in the run up to the general election could be extremely harmful to the Conservative Party, whose law-and-order policy could be damaged.

in a letter to Mr Evans at the POA, Alan Walker, the Prison Service's Director of Operations South, who is one of a board of 10 responsible for the day-to-

day running of jails, says new crease. He adds that as new cells analysis "indicates that there may be insufficient usable accommodation available during late November and early December, and between February

He said this was due to the unexpected surge in the prison population, now predicted to reach 52,700 by the end of the month and 53,700 by March.

Prison population

Mr Walker adds that in the past, police cells have been used to take an overspill of inmates, "but the service can no longer to pay the £300prisoner night average cost of using police cells as these costs fall directly to the Service.

"Additionally, the police in certain parts of the country have indicated that cells will be unavailable due to their own operacional difficulties." In fact, police charge up to £1,746 a night to house a prisoner, the costliest cells being in Sheffield.

Mr Walker says training pris-ons and new local prisons will

vear unless we suffer unplanned major accommodation losses". David Evans said yesterday:

This is a high risk strategy that could lead to violent disturbances, including riots. It's quite possible that Mr Howard Ithe Home Secretary] may not be able to reach the next general election without a major disturbance breaking out," He said the rise in the population comes at a time when prisons

next year's budget. The number of inmates is expected to increase greatly fol-lowing Michael Howard's latest law-and-order package, an-nounced last month. Up to 20,000 more people could end up in prison under proposals to give life sentences for secondtime violent and sexual of-fenders and minimum sentences for third-time burglars and drug dealers. A Bill would also bring drastic cuts in sen-

tence remission. His announcement at the Conservative Party conference was attacked by prison and probation workers who said it make a tough situation unworkable. Lord Taylor, the Lord Chief Justice, criticised the move as interfering with the power of the judiciary.

Mr Howard is visiting "supermax" prisons which house the most serious offenders in the United States. He intends to copy the scheme and set up a "Alcatraz" style jail in Britain. Mr Howard believes locking up more people for longer will act as a deterrent and ultimately have to take the hrunt of the in- reduce the level of crime.

## Blair is industrialists' darling



the Confederation of British Industry yesterday. His speech to the Birmingham conference earned a 55-second ovation, while Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister was rewarded with just 43 seconds' applause. Réport, page 20 Photograph: Newsteam

## **Five Americans** die in Saudi blast

British companies and military personnel in Saudi Arabia were last night warned to increase their vigilance after a car-bomb attack on an American security installation in Rivadh killed

President Bill Clinton pledged to mount an enormous effort" to find the perpetrators and an FBI team was sent to the kingdom to assist Saudi intelligence in the hunt. It was the first terrorist attack singe 1991 in Saudi Arahia, the world's leading oil exporter and a key ally of the West.

Saudi National Guard. Western embassies tightened

companies were told to "up-grade their vigilance". Some try; British Aerospace is a lead contractor in the £20bn oil-for-arms Al-Yamamah deal with the Saudi government.

terests in Saudi Arabia. Earli-Movement demanded that Western forces should leave But there has been no trou-

London, Dr Ghazi Algosaibi, said yesterday that the bombing was "an isolated incident" which did not reflect on the country's stability. "All speculation about the perpetrators remains just that, speculation," Dr Algosaibi said.

Bomb's two targets, page 12

# West 'admits killing 20 more victims'

WILL BENNETT

Frederick West claimed that he and his wife, Rosemary, had killed 20 more victims than those found at 25 Cromwell Street, bringing the total to more than 30, Winchester

Crown Court was told yesterday. The couple had been involved in the killings with several other men and some of the bodies had been huried at a farm, Mr West told Janet Leach, an observer who was appointed to sit in on his police

interviews, Mrs Leach, 39, was resuming her evidence at the murder trial of Mrs West, six days after collapsing at the court and being taken to a Winchester hospital, where she had been receiving treatment ever since.

Mrs Leach claimed West told

her that he and others were involved in killings, other than those at his Cromwell Street home, and the bodies were buried at an unnamed farm.

Looking pale and drawn, Mrs Leach, 39, who suffered a stroke last year, was pushed into the witness box in a wheelchair and was accompanied by Dr Christopher Gordon from the hospital throughout her evidence.

The trial of Mrs West, 41 who denies murdering 10 girls and young women whose remains were found at the Wests' house, 25 Cromwell Street, Gloucester, and at their previous home in the city, entered its seventh week yesterday. Last week Mrs Leach to

court that she was appointed an "appropriate adult" to sit in as an impartial observer at police interviews with Mr West after his arrest last year.

She said that she established a rapport with Mr West and that while detectives were not present he told her that he had made a pact with his wife by which he would take sole responsibility for the killings if

they were caught. Mrs Leach wept and paused

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frequently to take sips of water yesterday as she continued her account of her conversations

Mr West, who was charged with 12 murders, was found dead in his prison cell last New Year's Day.

Asked by Brian Leveson QC. prosecuting, how many more bodies Mr West was talking about, Mrs Leach replied: "An-

He did not tell her precisely where they were buried and said that Mrs West, another person and some coloured men had been involved in the killings.

Mrs Leach said that one of the victims was missing cafe waitress Mary Bastholm, 15, who vanished in January 1968.



An artists' impression of Janet Leach in court

She learned that Mary was closed farm. West, she said, told her that he picked Mary up at a hus stop. The jury has already heard that some of the alleged Cromwell Street victims were picked up at bus stops.

Mrs Leach admitted lying in her evidence last week, that she had not spoken to the press. And she agreed that she had heen paid a £7,500 option for a book deal which could eventually be worth £100,000.

Report, page 7

# EU auditors fail to find £2bn missing cash

KATHERINE BUTLER

The European Union's spending watchdog will today refuse to certify the Community's 1994 accounts because more than £2bn - 4 per cent of the hudget - cannot be properly accounted for. In total, more than fillen, or a fifth of the £50bn spent by the EU in 1994, is open question, the Court of Au-

in a report to he unveiled to the European Parliament in Strasbourg today the court discloses that "serious and substantial errors" have been found in transactions underlying 4 per cent of last year's spending. It cannut youch for a further 14 per cent because auditing and accounting procedures were so frequently ignored or flouted. The revelations will be seized

Strathelyde police are to in-

vestigate incidents during

Rangers' match against Ab-

erdeen last Saturday. Televi-

sion evidence appeared to

show Paul Gascoigne head-

butting one opponent and

making contact with his elbow

Page 28

Gazza probe

with another.

section

ONE

the hlame for lax financial mangement and inadequate control over taxpayers' money is placed at the door of national governments, not Brussels. "The errors and systems' weaknesses detected ... originate most often in bodies in the member-states responsible for the administration of community expenditure

programmes, it says.
The European Commission has traditionally claimed that no more than 1 per cent of the annual hudget is lost to fraud. While the Luxembourg-based auditors stop short of suggesting they have uncovered fraud totalling 4 per cent of spending, they warn that a mix of fraud, waste, mismanagement and poor financial house-keeping is affecting a large part of the budget. Accounting errors do not in every case represent a loss to

IN BRIEF

Leah's prospects 'bleak'

Doctors were in discussion with

the parents of an 18-year-old girl

in a coma after taking ecstasy

over whether to switch off her life

support machine. The prospects

of Leah Betts surviving were said to be "very, very bleak" follow-

ing her collapse after taking the

on by Eurosceptics but most of the taxpayer, the auditors stress, but they are evidence of inadequate financial administration in virtually every area of EU

They call for urgent introduction of tighter coutrols and condemn the failure of both member-states and the Commission to heed past warnings. The court is complying for the first time with a Maastricht Treaty requirement to provide Parliament and the Council of Ministers with a statement of assurance on the legality of the annual accounts.

The court expresses particular concern at the absence of proper controls over payments to farmers and food traders at national level.

A litary of mismanagement and ineffective or non-existent controls is reported in the fruit-

and-vegetable regime, where

Clinton's budget battle

President Clinton raised the

stakes still further in the hud-

get war with Congress by vow-

ing a veto on a bill that would

virtually ensure a partial gov-

ernment shutdown today. He

declared war on the Republican

plan to balance the budget in

Page 13

seven years.

the court complains about Greek. Spanish and Italian farmers being systematically overpaid for destruction of unwanted produce. But once again the finger is pointed at national authorities, who in many cases leave control "in the hands of the most interested

parties - the claimants". Poor control over pay-onts under regional development schemes also draws heavy criticism. Of the 270 projects to foster co-operation between the Republic and Northern Ireland under the Interreg programme, only 39 were found to have any cross-border content.

In Eastern Europe, mean-while, where multi-hillionpound schemes are being run to regenerate the economies of the former Soviet-bloc states, there is severe criticism of EU spending on apparently futile studies

MICHAEL SHERIDAN Diplomatic Editor

six people and injured more

Five Americans, two of them military trainers, were among those killed when a van packed with explosives blew up yesterday morning outside a US-op-erated training facility for the

security and high-profile British 30,000 Britons live in the coun-

Several opposition groups have threatened Western iner this year the Islamic Change the region or face attack.

ble since 1991, when a minibus carrying American military personnel was raked by gunfire. The Saudi amhassador to

#### COMMENT

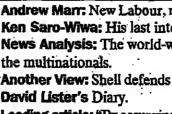
Andrew Marr: New Labour, new moralism. Page 17 Ken Saro-Wiwa: His last interview. News Analysis: The world-wide responsibilities of

Another View: Shell defends its activities. Page 16 David Lister's Diary.

Leading article: "By occupying the middle ground the CBI is in a position to influence events in a way it has not experienced since the days of beer, sandwiches and

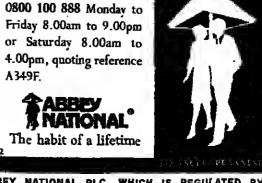
fog and only limited bright spells.

ARTS 6-10 CHESS 22 CROSSWORD 22 FASHION 12,13.

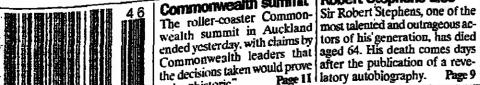


corporatism in the Seventies."

Weather: South-west England and South Wales will have rainy periods. Elsewhere it will be mainly dry, but with early mist and Section Two, page 21



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Page 11 latory autobiography. Page 9 to be "historic". BUSINESS 19-24 COMMENT 16.17 CROSSWORD 28 GAZETTE 18 LAW REPORT 18 LEADING ARTICLES 16 LETTERS 16 NEWS 2-14 OBITUARIES 18 SHARES 24 SPORT 25-28 UNIT TRUSTS 19

Page 5

Commonwealth summit Robert Stephens dies

The roller-coaster Common- Sir Robert Stephens, one of the

wealth summit in Auckland most talented and outrageous acweathn summit in Americans by tors of his generation, has died



CORNER

LIFE 4.5 LISTINGS 20,21 MEDIA 17-19 REVIEWS 10 SCIENCE 14,15 TELEVISION & RADIO 23,24 WEATHER 21

# Bruton to urge talks on N Ireland

Chief Political Correspondent

**COLIN BROWN** 

The vote by MPs to declare their

earnings could turn into a bo-

nanza for the normally stuffy

world of partiamentary solici-

One firm was already on the

look out for extra business yes-

lodge consultancy contracts

with the new parliamentary

commissioner, Sir Gordon

Downey.
Dozens of MPs yesterday re-

ceived letters from a firm of par-

liamentary solicitors offering

their advice in meeting the new

rules for declaring private earn-

Dyson Bell Martin, who have

their offices in the shadow of

Big Ben at Westminster, wrote

to all MPs who have already de-

clared a post as a parliamentary

adviser in the register of mem-

"By reason of the nature of

our practice and having fol-

lowed the proceedings of the

Nolan Committee closely, we

believe that we are well placed

to advise members on the ap-

propriate form of agreements

terday from MPs who have to

The Irish Prime Minister will today seek to reach agreement with John Major to end the impasse over the stalled Northern ireland peace process.

. John Bruton is expected to use contacts between officials in Duhlin and London to speak to the Prime Minister by telephone to move the peace

Mr Bruton will urge Mr

target date for the start of allparty round-table talks within six weeks of the start of work by an international commission on decommissioning weapons.

Although the timetable by the Taoiseach will be regarded by London as unrealistic, both sides insisted the gap between the two governments was narrower than appeared from the \refary of State for Northern Ireweekend war of words between the two leaders over the timing of the next step.

Jonathan Bracken, the firm's

head of government relations,

ter drop to so many MPs had

been used. "What we are say-

ing is if you have consultancy arrangements, they now need a written contract which has to be

Until Sir Gordon has issued

guidance, there is tikely to be a

large grey area surrounding the definition of the sums which

have to be declared. But Mr

Bracken said his firm was def-

initely not in the business of of-

fering help on how to dodge the

on how you get round the rules.

The suggestion of some of the

press that you might split con-

tracts into two parts, and get

paid £20,000 as a management

consultant and £2,000 as an MP

- we are not in that husiness at

Last week's humiliating de-

feat for John Major in the

earnings vote led to renewed

rumblings about his leadership

from Tory MPs angry that he had allowed the Nolan inquiry,

to get out of hand. The issue will

all," Mr Bracken said.

"We are not offering advice

MPs' earnings: Parliamentary lawyers

to cash in on registration of contracts

Nolan vote

spells boom

for solicitors

It was learned last night that Mr Major wrote to Mr Bruton at the weekend in a preliminary response to the Irish pressure for movement over the twintrack approach to the settlement. Mr Major has emphatically denied that it is Britain, which is responsible for

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Secland, said yesterday there was no rift between the two gov-ernments. Sir Patrick, speaking

in Larne, Co Antrim, said the obstacle to progress in the talks process was the paramilitaries' refusal to make even a start to the decommissioning

The Northern Ireland Secretary would like to see the ground laid for all-party talks by next February. Mr Bruton said the Irish government was ready to move now on the next steps towards all-party talks, hut Dublin sources denied this was a call for the talks to begin now.

The Irish Foreign Minister, Dick Spring, has been pushing for a settlement to be reached through negotiation round the table. The twin-track approach by the two governments origi-nally envisaged a fresh round of bilateral or trilateral talks between the governments and the individual parties, including Sinn Fein, while the international commission on decom-

missioning weapons began its London wants the commission to report back on progress before bringing Sinn Fein into all-party talks. Dublin now appears to believe the inter-party negotiations by Michael Ancram, the Northern Ireland minister, have failed to move the process forward, and instead wants to short-cut the twin-track process by moving to all-party talks after the commission has

us weapons. plan. commissioning

Dublin sources said Mr Bruton was keen to put pressure on Sinn Fem to make a compromise, by the two governments adopting a united approach. However, he has made clear he is seeking a compromise from the British government.

The Prime Minister accused the Irish government of bowing to Sinn Fein pressure when it pulled out of a planned summit got under way.

The difficulty remains the refusal of the IRA to begin de-

#### IN BRIEF Two charged with

bus arson attack

Two men were charged yesterday with arson offences in connection with the firebombing of a hus used as a home by road protesters in Newbury, Berkshire at the weekend. They have been bailed and are due to appear before Newbury magistrates on 12 December.

The incendiary attack took place on Sunday morning as Jeremy Middleton, 34, his pregnant girlfriend, Amanda Rothwell, 25, and their sixyear-old son slept in their bus in a layby at Reddings Copse, a small woodland on the route of the planned A34 bypass. Threats had previously been made against road protesters living in tree houses at the camp established there last month.

Voluntary ID cards

The Home Secretary, Michael Howard, is to meet Tara Mukherjee, president of the European Migrants Forum -which ise seeking equal rights for residents from outside the European Union - later this month to discuss the the group's support for the introduction of a voluntary identity card system. Mr Mukherjee said his group strongly opposed compulsory ID cards, but voluntary cards had proved helpful to thousands of migrants from Algeria, who were challenged about their identity by French police inthe crackdown against Algerian terrorism.

#### Boy,8, dies in fall

An eight-vear-old boy died

#### Baby charge case adjourned

The case of a British woman charged with murdering her new-born baby was further adjourned by a New York courL Caroline Beale, 30, from Leytonstone, east London, had bail extended until 7 December. Miss Beale was arrested in Sepapparently trying to smuggle the child's body on to a London-bound flight.

Copies of Free As A Bird, the first new Beatles single for 25 years - to be released on 4 De-Records.

headquarters of drinks giant Guinness after they discovered an advertisement lo pronote a new beer was just 16. The company apologised and insisted that if it had realised the model was under-age she would not . have been used. Lisa Berry from Carrickfergus. Co Antrim. was supplied by a Belfast model agency for the advert pro-moting Guinness's new product

when he fell from a second-floor window at his home. John Thorne is thought to have been. playing when he fell from the bedroom window in Beaumont Leys, Leicester. Leicester Housing Association, which owns the property, is to investigate the

tember last year at Kennedy air-port carrying the dead baby girl.

#### **Guarded secret**

cember - are currently under armed guard abroad, it was announced by Parlophone

#### **Guinness** boob

a red-haired model they used in Kilkenny Red in a trade mag-

Salina Woodruff, of the auctioneers Colnaghi, with a rare portrait of Sir Winston Churchill in the 'siren' suit he wore at War Cabinet meetings. The picture, by Frank Salisbury, is to be sold by Fernants Auctioneers in Leyburn, North Yorkshire, later this month

Photograph: David Sandisc Photograph: David Sandison

### Tory MP tells why he switched to Labour

Ian Hargreaves resigns

as 'Independent' editor

tan Hargreaves resigned as editor of the Independent yesterday.

Newspaper Publishing, said: "We are all grateful to Ian for his stewardship of the title and

day.

Mr Hargreaves has been editor of the Independent since Independent is in good shape

and are happy to accept in- still be rumbling when MPs re-

structions for that purpose," the convene tomorrow for the new

JOHN RENTOUL Political Correspondent

A Conservative MP has told a constituent he voted in favour of disclosing MPs' carnings last week after he and four other Tories initially voted against disclosure and then switched to back a Labour amendment.

Harry Greenway, Tory MP for Ealing North, has told a con-stituent: "I voted to make public parliamentary earnings outside the parliamentary salary by MPs. I agree with you that the public have a right to know

voted against disclosure of "fees and benefits" to the commis- alised the two Labour amendsioner for standards. Only after ments were linked, "These John Major was defeated, by the things are very complicated."

August 1994 and during his

tenure circulation has improved

to a peak of 300,000 recorded

Mr Liam Healy, chairman of ment."

in June of this year.

surprisingly large margin of 51. did Mr Greenway and four other Tory MPs change sides to support Labour in a second,

technical vote. The other Tory MPs who changed sides were: Nirj Deva MP for Brentford and Isleworth; David Harris, who retires from his St Ives, Cornwall, seat at the next election; Robert Key, MP for Salisbury, and Nigel Evans, MP for Ribble Valley.

Mr. Evans said last night that he had opposed disclosure but saw no point in voting against it once the first vote was lost.

these things."

Mr Greenway told the Ealing
But in the first key vote, he Gazette his first vote was a Mr Greenway told the Ealing "technical hitch". He had not re-

and we will begin immediately

to seek a replacement editor to

take the newspaper to the next

exciting stage in its develop-

# Second complaint over BA checks Donna Cadogan, 44, a teacher, told staff they could ex-

PETER VICTOR

Another hlack British family has complained after being targeted by British Airways "ethnic passport "photocopying staff.

Ayling, last Friday gave an unreserved apology to a British-born black probation officer after the Independent revealed that his passport had been secretly photocopied.

The airline said covertly photocopying Tony Kelly's passport had been, a mistake". Telling him this was done under US Federal Aviation rules, which required copies to be made of all "ethnic passports" had been another mistake, it added. Further letters obtained by

the Independent, however, show long his daughter's details that BA targeted other black would be retained. After three also confirm that the informa-

Black Briton Michelle Cadogan's passport was quietly taken away and copied without any explanation as she checked in for a BA flight to New York last December, It was only when her parents demanded to know where their 17-year-old daughter's passport had gone that they

Michelle's father, Dr Michael Cadogan, whole to BA demanding an explanation for the incident and asking how

British nationals for covert months, he received a letter passport photocopying. They from Denise Lawson, of BA's customer relations department. tion gathered was kept for two stating: "The US Immigration admission procedures and require all airline (sic) to perform thnrough document checks prior to embarkation from the UK.

The photocopying of passports and other travel documents forms part of these checks ... British Airways Birmingham have advised me that all copies are held on file for two months from the departure date and

then destroyed." Dr Cadogan, 47, a frequent BA husiness passenger and a regular traveller with his fami-

ly, then wrote to Sir Colin Marshall, asking why his daughter had been targeted.

In his reply, the BA Chairman stated that he had seen the said the ramifications of the isletter from the customer rela- sue were far-reaching: "Sir Colanswered in detail the five points you raised about the photocopying of passports belonging to passengers checking in at Birmingham to travel to New York. There is nothing I can add to what has been said already.'

Last July, as Michelle Cadogan was leaving Britain to travel again to New York for a holiday, BA staff again tried to take away her passport. This time, her mother put her foot

the points in my husband's letter. They were prepared to defend it right up to the top. They have apologised to Tony Kelly. I would like to hear what they have to say to us." BA said Sir Colin's letter to the Cadogans had been based on the same inaccurate information as in the Kelly case: "We

amine the passport in front of

her or not at all. Last night she

have acted to correct that now." A spokesman said that since the Independent revelations, procedures had been revised.

#### Minister aims to put a price on tranquillity CHRISTIAN WOLMAR study will try to calculate, for example, what an extra decibel of calculations of house prices on noisy streets compared with those on quiet streets nearby.

Transport Correspondent

What is the value of fresh air or the price of peace and quiet? For the first time, research is being undertaken to try to assess the value of the elusive concept of quality of life. Until now, no attempt has

been made to assess the value of the environmental impact of transport but yesterday the Secretary of State for Transport, Sir-George Young, launched re-search to try for the first time to put a precise price on environmental damage as it affects

noise or a measurable increase in air pollution is worth. Previously, the department has shied away from such work inpowing that it would be a major weapon for opponents of road schemes at public inquiries.

In a review of existing work in this field, the department found that some values had already been suggested for certain aspects of pollution.

For example, researchers suggested that an extra decibel of noise in a year should be costed at between £5.50 and £10 per people near road schemes. The year. This is worked out from

which have suggested that there might be a 0.74 per cent fall in price per decibel increase in noise. Estate agents already use a rule-of-thumb system in subtracting a percentage of their price estimate for homes

on busy roads. The use of such information could have a substantial impact on road schemes, and might make the difference between schemes proceeding or being

scrapped. Another survey suggests that a reduction in particulates, the

tiny specks of dust emitted by engines, especially diesels, by one microgram per cubic metre should be costed at between £5.75 and £17.25 per year. Annual average levels in the United Kingdom are of 20-30 micrograms per cubic metre in large urban areas.

Other factors which it might be possible to assess range from global warming and use of land for roadbuilding to potential risks of oil spillage, aesthetic damage to landscape and even the killing of wild animals.

Sir George endorsed the approach of the work but said he could not, as yet, agree with the

particular aspects of damage. Little assessment of the environmental damage of road schemes is currently taken account of in the cost-benefit analysis, which environmentalists have argued skews the equation in favour of building schemes.

Stephen Joseph, of Transport 2000, the group supporting pub-lic transport, said the timing of the research was interesting: "The Government is just about to make massive cuts in the roads programme and these sort of calculations will make roadbuilding look even less attractive from an economic point of view."

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

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Rugby Union

Water crisis: Public inquiry to go ahead today with embattled Yorkshire company applying for an emergency drought order

# Rain dampens the threat of cuts to homes

NICHOLAS SCHOON Environment Correspondent

Rain over the weekend has averted the threat of water cuts for 600,000 people in West Yorkshire for the time being Yorkshire Water said yesterday.

But a public inquiry will go ahead today at which the embattled company will ask for an emergency drought order, giving it powers to cut off house-holds in Halifax and Huddersfield for 24 hours in every 48.

Yorkshire Water's woes were added to yesterday when it was revealed that it was one of three of the hig 10 water companies being investigated by the industry regulator.

Ian Byatt, director-general of the Office of Water Services (Ofwat), has questioned Yorkshire, South West and North West about alleged failures to meet agreed standards.

Two-thirds of Yorkshire's 4.5 million customers are now covered by hosepipe bans - largely ineffectual now that garden watering has stopped. About 1.5 million, one-third, are living under more severe restrictions granted by earlier drought orders from the Government. These restrict inessential uses of

water such as car washing. But the gravest threat is to the residents of the Kirklees and Calderdale districts of West Yorkshire, covering Huddersfield and Halifax respectively. The area is heavily dependent on upland reservoirs with limited storage capacity. In March, these were full, but an extremely dry summer has been followed by an exceptionally dry autumn.

The company is hoping that, following the public inquiry, it will get permission to cut them off zones in these areas 24 hours at a time. It had been expected to start the cuts next week if the emergency drought order is granted. Hospitals would be exempt, while nursing homes would be served by bowsers during the cut-offs.

Yorkshire Water said yesterday that following some rain at the weekend the rota cuts will not be needed until 1 December at the earliest. Continuous will use buckets to flush school heavy rain is needed to start filling the reservoirs serving the two areas, which are only 11 per Rushworth, of Calderdale edcent full. Yorkshire Water has ucation authority, said. "It's a stockpiled half a million two-

from nearby Buxton, intended for the elderly, infirm and other groups who would be hardest hit by the cuts.

But once the cuts begin, it will need much more bottled water; it intends to supply up to 1 mil-lion litres a week. The bottled water is not suitable for making up baby's milk from formula; that should be boiled beforehand.

Leaflets are being distributed warning people that it will be essential to boil all water used for drinking and food preparation if the cuts begin because tap water purity could no longer be guaranteed. Public health offi-cials have said there is a threat of widespread dysentery and food poisoning unless people

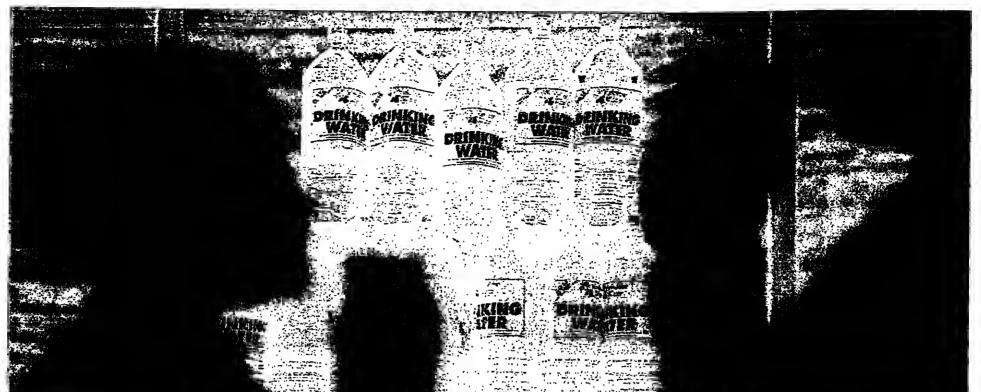
follow the hygiene guidelines. A fleet of 200 road tankers is bringing water - 25,000 tons a day - from east Yorkshire. which has no drought, to Hal-ifax and Huddersfield, Temporary pumping stations and pipelines have been installed, and in some places the usual flow along large mains has been reversed

Yorkshire has a grid system to distribute water round the region, but it is not designed to move water from the higher and usually much wetter west to the dry east. The company is also planning another tankering operation bringing water from Northumbria to Leeds, whose

reservoirs are also at low level. The rota cuts would be unprecedented in England, Wales or Scotland, although a few thousand people around Cookstown in Northern Ireland had overnight water cuts from early August to early October due to the drought.

For several months Yorkshire Water has been appealing to people to cut their water use by a quarter and now uses television advertisements. It says it is deeply disappointed with the public's response to the gathering crisis; at most consumption has been reduced by one-tenth.

During the cuts the company intends to pay £3-an-hour for an emergency squad of super-visors and school cleaners who lavatories. "They won't have to question of being there and us-



Bottles banked: Pupils at St Joseph's Junior School in Halifax, West Yorkshire, where emergency rations of bottled water have been delivered Photograph: Joan Russell/Guzelian

#### Shortage measures: A county's water crisis Reservoirs serving Hailiax 1/% full on average: Rainfall into their catchment from March 1 to November 7 51% of long term average In Halifax, 60,000 homes and in Huddersfield, 140,000 homes facing water cut-offs for 24 hours Halifax Hose pipe bans In every 48, as early as December 1. supplied by Huddersfield has the more isolated water storage Loftsome Bridge treatment works Huddersfield ervoire serving Hudderstield 12.1%, full on average Rainfall into their catchment from March 1 to November 7 46% of long-term average

# Regulator demands answers on standards

**NICHOLAS SCHOON** 

Three of the hig 10 water companies are now composing a reply to one of the most awkward letters they bave ever received - a missive from industry regulator Ian Byatt suggesting, in polite and formal language, that they have been cheating their customers.

He believes he has compiled information which suggests that they have not delivered levels of service, tapwater purity, leakage control and sewage clean-ups which they agreed to in return for being allowed to rise prices much faster than the rate of inflation.

Mr Byatt, director-general of the Office of Water Services (Ofwat), has been scutinising a mass of facts provided this summer by all of the English and Welsh water companies, the National Rivers Authority (the watchdog) and the Department of the Environment's Drinking

Water Inspectorate. He now has questions for North West Water, Yorkshire Water and South West Water which take the form of long annexes to his probing letters which have been leaked. They cover a hroad range of alleged short-comings in improving inland and coastal sewage works, raising purity standards for drinking

problems. Anthony Goldstone, chairman of the Ofwat's North West customer service committee, said that the company's handling of the drought had been "haphaz-

water and tackling low pressure

ard" and left a lot to be desired. The letter is really saying have they complied with all quality standards? Have they had the service standards Ofwat demands of them? Have they supmonths where there have been

difficulties?" he said. Yorkshire Water is told in its letter that it appears to have missed chances to improve its water supplies and storage in the years before this summer's drought. It has one of the highest leakage rates in the country, and has just announced that it plans to cut leakage from 26 to

24 per cent by 1998. The letters follow the introduction this year of a new annual scrutiny by Ofwat. The regulator refused to comment on their contents, saying they were confi-dential at this stage. "We have to give them the chance to reply at length to what we're raising," a spokeswoman said.

Yorkshire Water said: "Mr Byatt has not yet reached any conclusions." It said it would cooperate fully, but was disputing "a large amount" of what the reg-

# Ageing robbers jailed for 'vicious' shooting of guard

with links to the Kray and needs counselling. Richardson gangs were given long jail sentences yesterday for a robbery in which a security guard was deliberately shot.

At an age when the Recorder of London, Sir Lawrence Verney, said most people were beginning or contemplating retirement. Christopher Bulbrook, 60, and Anthony Keegan, 6t, are starting jail sentences of 15 and 18 years respectively.

Their victim, 44-year-old Andrew Wallis, had come to the Old Bailey to see them sentenced as part of his therapy but was unable to face the ordeal and had to leave.
The court was told he still suf-

fers pain from where Keegan blasted him in the leg with a

sawn-off shotgun. He can only work at desk jobs, will never be able to work

Two vicious career criminals again as a security guard and still

A wimess to the robbery and shooting. Alice Whitlock, 78, was so disgusted by Keegan's gratuitous violence in shooting Mr Willis, a Security Express guard – even though he offered no resistance – "that she hit the gunman with her handbag and called him a bastard", said John Kelsey Fry, for the prosecution.

Keegan pushed her out of the way and ran to a getaway car driven by Bulbrook. Seconds later it was rammed by police officers who had been watching them for several days.

Inside the car were two sawnoff shotguns and over £10,000 from the robbery outside an Ice-land food store in Bermondsey, east London.

As the grey-haired pair were led to the cells, Detective Sergeant John Swinfield of the Flying Squad said: "They are

then there are necessary pow-ers that need to be taken." The

official announcement is ex-

pected to be made within the

The Government can effec-

tively ban TV Erotica from

British screens by making it an

offence to sell the smart cards

in Britain and to advertise or

publish information about the

1993 to ban the pornographic station Red Hot Dutch from

Britain, but viewers can still see

the channel by purchasing the

smart card on the continent.

The order proscribing Red Hot Dutch by the British gov-

ernment put the station out of

business, as it lost vast sums of

money when it appealed to the

European courts about the ban.

69, have started broadcasting

from the continent but have

made a deliberate decision not

advertise in Britain.

Similar stations, such as TV

Similar action was taken in

next fortnight.

both highly dangerous individuals. As a result of their incarceration a lot of security guards out there are safer. They are

vicious, armed career robbers." He said he was glad the judge had rejected "the smokescreen they attempted to put up by implying they were lured into the robbery by an insider. DS Swinfield said this attempt to implicate Mr Willis was a total fabrication and added

insult to the injuries he suffered. The men admitted robbery and firearms offences and Keegan also admitted wounding. A charge against Bulbrook's 58-year-old wife, June, of conspiracy to rob - which she denied - was dropped. Police saw her hand over to her husband a red holdall allegedly containing the sawn off shotguns. But Bulbrook told police: "I made her do it, she had no choice, she is

Squad officers watching Bulbrook's home in Bermondsey saw Keegan - on the run from a five-year drug sentence - vis-it several times. They followed as the pair reconnoitred the

nearby shopping centre.
In November last year Keegan struck as Mr Willis left the Iceland store after collecting the cash. He pushed aside Mrs Whitlock and her husband, spun the guard around, grabbed the bag and then deliberately and without provocation shot

him in the leg.

The pair, both with similar robbery convictions and a crime history dating back to the 1950s, were told by the judge he re-jected their assertions an insider was involved and the gunshot was intended only as a warning. He said they knew the guns were loaded and to be used if they thought fit.

# Government's water pollution plied water over the last few ulator was suggesting.

## Porn TV channel | Deadline nears for to be banned

MARIANNE MACDONALD Media Correspondent

The Government is set to ban the pornographic satellite chan-nel TV Erotica from British screens. Virginia Bottomley, the Secretary of State for Heritage, said vesterday.

The Swedish-based station. which advertises itself as Europe's hottest adult movie channel", shows films featuring uninhibited sex.

People in Britain with certain satellite dishes can view the channel - which is beamed from the Eutelsat satellite - if they pay £139 for an appropri-

ate smart card. Mrs Bottomicy told the Today programme on Radio 4 that action to ban the channel

was in hand. The been very concerned about that channel and have been taking steps. I'll be able to make further announcements

When there is material to market their smartcards or before long," she said. going out which is damaging to

## Naval College bids children's health and well being

IAN MacKINNON

Agents handling the sale of the lease for the Royal Naval College at Greenwich, one of Britain's architectural masterpieces, anticipate a flurry of bids minutes before the deadline at

noon tomorrow. Yet as the countdown entered its final hours yesterday, not one sealed hid had been received. despite expressions of interest in the Grade I listed building on the Thames from more than 450

organisations. However, Knight Frank & Rutley, the estate agents co-ordinating the sale of the 150year lease for the Ministry of Defence, said proposals for large properties invariably arrived right at the last moment as organisations tended to use all the available time.

The sale of the Sir Christopher Wren-designed complex, which will have stringent conditions attached, has provoked outrage in some circles from exclusively educational," said those who fear the new tenants Mr Haynes.

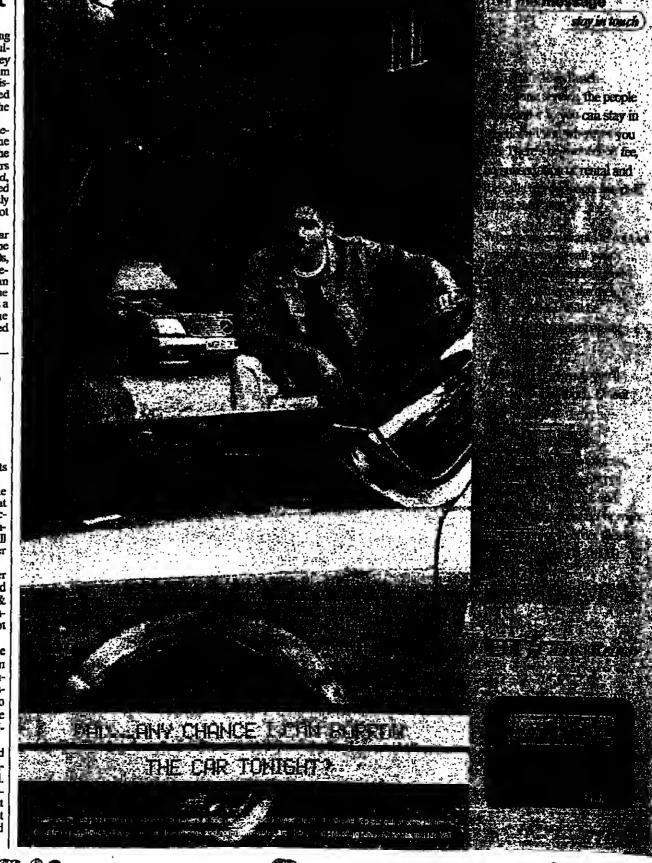
may not be in keeping with its character.

In response, though, the Government has always been at pains to point out that the successful proposal, not to be announced for some months, "will be sympathetic to the character For this reason and the sheet

scale of the site, Richard Haynes, of Knight Frank & Rutley, predicted that the number of bids would ultimately not be very large. Primary contenders are the

National Maritime Museum and the University of Greenwich, which propose trans-forming Greenwich into Britain's foremost Baroque site which would host the millennium celebrations. But hids are also expected

from other educational organisations, in Britain and abroad. "There has been some other interest but the serious interest that will result in a bid is almost



# Violence on the streets a big problem in 'little England'

Trouble by the Thames: Henley counts cost after teenagers go on rampage

JAMES CUSICK

Henley-on-Thames, the river-side "little England" town, redolent of rowing, regardas, straw boaters and plenty of Pimms, is struggling with a new addition to its tourist attractions.

For the second time this year, the supposedly genteel image of the town has been destroyed by Saturday night street violence. Over the weekend, 10 vouths were arrested after confrontations with local police armed with riot batons and reinferced by dog handlers.

Now the town is anxiously awaiting this week's edition of its own local newspaper. "I am sure we're about to become the Brixion of sleepy Thames Valley," said one local shopkeeper. But while the town is divided over whether it has suffered a full-scale street riot or the aftermath of an alcohol and drugs-induced teenage rampage, the youths on the streets vesterday were not looking forward to this weekend.

Outside the Three Turs pub, the fashionable watering hole that attracts teenagers from as far afield as Reading, a huddle of youths held their own verbal inquiry into what happened last weekend. They blame the

Inspector Ali Dizaei hlamed the town's "little Jeremys and little Henrys" who he claimed pelted his police station with stones, shouted racial abuse, and threw bricks through a police Land Rover window - all during two hours of midnight maybem. A similar rampage oc-curred earlier this year, shortly after the heavy policing for the July Royal Regatta had been reduced

Arriving in Henley almost a year ago, the Inspector promised a clampdown on a local drugs and drink problem identified as out of cootrol. He

promised increased policing.
The youths outside the 'Tuns' yesterday reacted by saying: The Old Bill were totally out of order." One, describing Sat-



Keeping the peace: A police officer on patrol in Henley-on-Thames. Youths in the town complain of provocation

us. Eventually there was fighting on every street corner and in the car park. That's not usu-

urday, said: "They hit people everything will now go quiet for with riot batons. Dogs went for a while or the trouble will worsen this weekend. "People might now come here thinking let's go there and do some damage ;

Around Hart Street, Bell

keepers who had their proper-ties damaged in the "rioting" were divided over what had happened. Asquiths teddy hear shop had one of its period win-

stolen. The shop, according to assistant Catherine Saker, has been damaged before during similar trouble. "However, two bears stolen is not gang war-fare," she said. "It is getting dows damaged and two bears worse here, but it's no worse

than any other similar place in

College lecturer Richard Paines, who teaches at the large sixth form college in Henley, said: The problem here is that in Henley there is little entertainment for young people,

apart from the pubs.

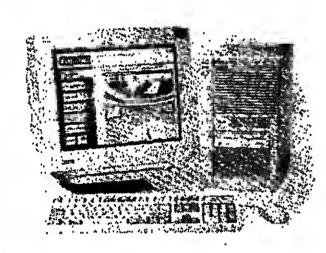
Sarah Gregory, who owns a gift shop on Bell Street, described the episode in terms of inconvenience, rather than terror. But she said some of the elderly residents nearby regularly have their doors kicked in. with some "too terrified" to leave their homes on Friday and

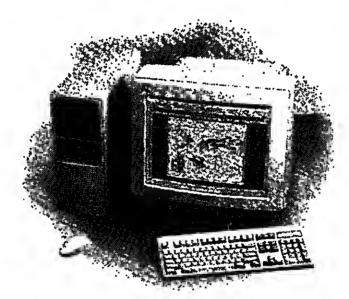
Saturday nights. Publicans along Hart Street. leading to the town hall and the police station, played down last weekend's trouble. An employee at the Catherine Wheel, which employs weekend bouncers, dismissed tales of riots with nothing happeoed really".

Others, awaiting this weekend, disagree. One shop owner, who asked not to be named, said: "Like many places in Britain you need only scratch the surface and the image goes." The Royal Regatta was only one week in the year.
"The rest of the time we have to deal with what the rest of the country is dealing with."

Eleven youths were arrested in the town of Market Drayton in Shropshire on Sunday night after gang fighting.

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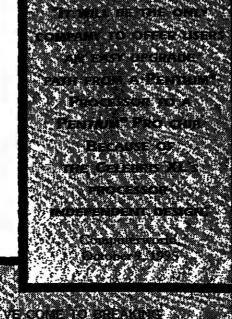
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# Hip fracture patients 'get sub-standard treatment'

Thousands of elderly people who break their hips receive sub-standard care, with long delays before treatment from inexperienced surgeons and poor pain control, according to

The Audit Commission assessed the care provided by for elderly patients with hip fractures in nine hospitals across the country, and found patients' recovery was hindered by poor planning and co-ordination of heir care, pre- and post-operatively, and in rehabilitation.

Each year, 57,000 people break their hips and most disnct geoeral hospitals will see, on average, one patient a day with this condition. Most will be female: 90 per cent of them are over 65 and three-quarters are over 75. With an ageing popu-lation, the number of fractures will double in 20 years if current trends cootinue. The cost to the health service of caring for the patients is about £250m a year.

Andrew Foster, Controller of the Audit Commission, said: 'Although there are some examples of good practice. there are more things going wrong at every stage [in hip frac-ture] than we've found in pre-

vious studies for similar things." He said it was not a failure of individual managers, doctors, nurses or social workers, but a failure to adopt a "coherent strategy" for dealing with hip fracture, and to view the condition from the patients' point of view. Initially, many patients were having to wait in A&E departments for up to 10 hours before admission to a ward. Al-

most 20 per cent of patients waited for more than five hours. David Browning, associate director of the commission, said: "These are frail, elderly women in most cases, probably in shock. They are lying immo-hile on hard trolleys and there

is a danger of pressure sores." Although orthopaedic surgeons agree that the hest outcome of a hip fracture repair is the result of prompt surgery, up £10.00.

to 40 per cent wait two to three days, often going without food - in case surgery is scheduled at short notice - and receiving less than optimum attention to pain control. The main problems are lack of thesessing and are lack of theatre time and shortage of orthopaedic sur-

geons, according to the report. Another worrying trend was the number of junior surgeons and anaesthetists who carried out the surgery, Mr Foster said. "One in 10 operations were carried out by an unsupervised SHO [senior house officer] surgeon and anaesthetist together. It is a serious operation involving big bolts being pushed through frail, crumhly bones. It oeeds to be done well."

for discharge further problems were identified largely because of failure to plan discharge early eoough, and co-ordinate the various services - nursing care, physiotherapy, and social services. The report concludes with examples of best practice, and recommends that purchasing authorities (health authorities, GP fundholders etc) draw up detailed contracts of minimum expectations for the care and management of hip

fracture patients by hospitals. Mr Foster said compreheo-sive and well-co-ordinated care was needed to help elderly patients recover after hip operations, and in many cases their needs were not adequately met. He urged hospital managers to "take the lead in establishing rohust arrangements for planning and delivering the care

elderly people need Harriet Harman, Labour's health spokeswoman, said the improvements in care that the report recommends are made harder to achieve in a frag-mented, competitive NHS. Their call is for more planning and more co-operation in order to improve their care of these vulnerable patients. The Government is driving the NHS in the opposite direction."

United They Stand, Co-ordi-

nating Care for Elderly Patients with Hip Fractures, HMSO;

## Saturday night live with the police force

MARIANNE MACDONALD Media Correspondent

ITV will broadcast an extraordinary two-hour programme on Saturday night showing the police in action around Britain - arresting suspects, breathalysing drivers and crack-

ing down on prostitution.

Police Action Live is to be made by ITN, which says the programme will offer "an unedited glimpse of policing as it happens" and claims it will be the first live documentary of the

police in action. The one-off special will be anchored by the ITN newscaster Dermot Murnaghan and will show Fiona Foster, presenter of Carlton's London Tonight local news programme, reporting from Scotland Yard.

The programme makers will

not inform the members of the public involved that they are being filmed and in many cases they will he unaware that footage is being transmitted live to millions of viewers.

To ensure this, reporting teams will be provided with cameras the size of lipsticks and with specially equipped cars with larger cameras fitted to the roof and dashboard.

Footage will switch hetween a vice patrol in Manchester, a foot patrol in Northumbria, a policewoman answering 999 calls at Scotland Yard, and the custody suite at Charing Cross police station in central London.

Other mobile units will based in Hampshire, the North-east. Manchester and London but ITN will not specify the locations to avoid attracting crowds of camera-happy viewers.

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# Parents may cut ecstasy girl's life-support

IAN MacKINNON and IASON BENNETTO

The parents of an 18-year-old girl who is in a coma after taking costasy were in discussion with doctors last night over whether to to switch off her lifesupport machine.

The prospects of Leah Betts surviving were said to be "very, very bleak" following her collapse after taking the tablet on Saturday night during her 18th birthday party at her home.

Doctors at the Broomfield Hospital, in Chelmsford, Essex. where she is being treated, sent samples to counterparts at Guy's in London to try to discover what caused Leah's viocnt reaction.

Police were still bunting the main supplier fearing a contaminated batch of the drug, but released four students - two men, two women - on bail.

Leah, studying for A-levels at Basildon College, Essex, bought the £10 tablets in the town on Saturday.

Her parents, who both do work as drugs advisers, had thrown a party for her hirthday at their home in Latchingdon, near Maldon, Essex, but were there to ensure there was no trouble or drug-taking.

Leah's collapsed just after midnight shortly after taking the pill - which bore an imprint of



At risk: Leah Betts in a come in hospital yesterday

who supplied them," he said.

may have bought the same

ed by her step-mother, a nurse,

until paramedics arrived. Yesterday, Dr John Durkan, a consultant anaesthetist, said the longer her condition remained the same the less likely were ber chances of recovering. There is a significant chance she will not survive. There is no real improvement since she came in," he said.

Her father, Paul Betts, 49, a former police inspector in the drugs squad who now lectures in schools, said he was still trying to come to terms with what drugs in the bope that it would lead to the supplier. However, Detective Chief

Inspector Brian Storey said that a friend of Leah's, also 18, had taken a pill bought at the same time and had not shown any reaction.

Up to a million people are estimated to take ecstasy every week, but the danger the tablets pose is still botly contested.

Of the more than 50 recorded deaths blamed on the drug the majority of fatalities were due to dehydration and heat exhaustion. The drug allows party-goers to dance for hours.

Still in dispute is whether idulterated ecstasy is responsible for the rest of the deaths or if it is a rare reaction to the pure form of the drug, MDMA. Dealers use substances, including amphetamine and brick "I have got anger, hate, and

dust, to "pad out" ecstasy. I have got love for my daugh-An inquest tomorrow into the death in Biackpool in Septem-ber of Daniel Ashton, 17, is exter," he said. "I have got anger for the people who bought the drugs and hate for the bastard pected to hear that he died from cither a bad reaction to the ecstasy or an overdose of am-Police in Essex offered an amnesty to other teenagers who



# Judges to rule on knife injury to unborn child

Three Court of Appeal judges yesterday began considering a complex legal case involving the death of a four-month-old baby girl born prematurely because of knife wounds suffered by her

mother. The judges, beaded by the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor, have been asked to rule that a man who stabbed his pregnant girlfriend committed either murder or manslaughter of their child, even though the baby was not yet a legally recog-nised "person in being" at the

time of the wounding The case, referred to the court by the Attorney General, ir Nicholas Lyell, following the man's acquittal of murder on the directions of a trial judge, raises important issues over how the law should approach the death or disablement of children as a result of pre-natal injury. It is being watebed keenly by criminal lawyers and doctors involved in abortion practice.

Although the hearing centres on the application of the criminal law to the unlawful use of violence to the unborn child or its mother, it is seen as having implications for the medical profession in what is a "grey" area. Doctors are divided over the ethical problems arising from late abortions which result in delivery of living foetuses.

The woman victim in the case was stabbed with a kitchen knife during a drunken row and gave hirth three months prematurely. Her baby daughter survived for 121 days, under-

going surgery to repair the injuries she suffered in the womh. She died from the con-

sequences of premature hirth. At the man's trial in 1993, Mr Justice Holland rule that according to legal precedent, he could not be convicted of murder in the absence of specific malice against the unborn foetus. The man, who was earlier sentenced to four years in jail for wounding the mother, has the right to remain anonymous in the two-day appeal hearing, the outcome of which cannot affect his acquittal.

Robert Smith QC, for the Attorney General, contended that committed if a child was born alive, lived independently of its mother and then died as a result of intentional injury caused while it was still in the womb. It mattered not if the intention was to inflict injury only on the mother - the offence was still made out by the doc trine of "transferred malice".

The fact that the foctus was not legally a person in heing at the time was no bar to success ful prosecution, Mr Smith told Lord Taylor, Mr Justice Kay and Mrs Justice Steel. It was well es tablished law that to kill a child before it had an existence independent of its mother was ant murder or manslaughter, But once a child was born alive, difference considerations applied - and the lapse of time between the violent act and the actual death was irrelevant. The case continues today.

of radioactive fuel rods from Australia. The plant is also hidding for United States contracts

worth more than £100m. A con-

signment of 52 US-made rods

from a German nuclear reactor

arrived at Dounreay last month.

£10m a year for the Caithness

economy and create much-needed employment. A Doun-

reay spokesman said the spent

fuel elements posed no threat

to the public during transport

or storage. Reprocessing would

generate "nnly a tiny amount"

of additional radiation and all

waste products would be re-

turned to the country of origin.

series of revelations, highlighted in the Independent, that poor

safety procedures have led to

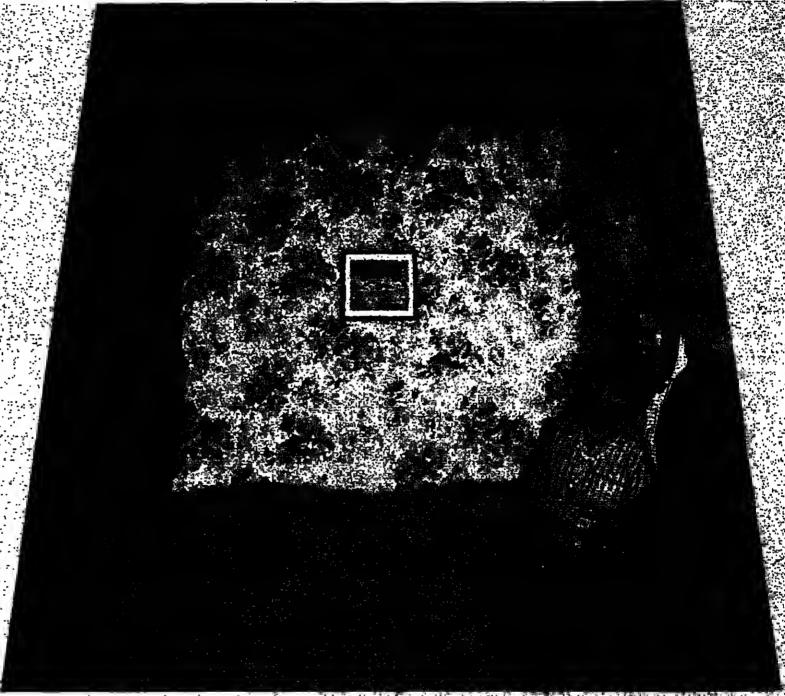
harmful radioactive leaks. "Hot" metal fragments have been dis-

covered at the plant and on nearby beaches in recent months,

At the same time, two reports from government pollution watchdogs have accused managers of covering up a radioac-

But UKAEA's bid for the work comes at a sensitive time. Dounreay is still recling from a

Bosses at the plant argue



# TESAYED ENDENDED

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## **Blockade** threat to nuclear plant

JOHN ARLIDGE Scotland Correspondent

Anti-nuclear activists are to blockade the troubled Dounreay nuclear research establishment in Caithness in an effort to prevent the reprocessing of up to 20,000 radioactive spent fuel rods.

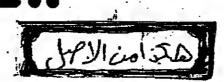
Managers at Dounreay have unveiled plans to reprocess more than 1,500 fuel rods each year for the next 10 years. The United Kingdom Atomic Energy Au-thority, which runs the plant, has already agreed to recycle 80 tons of spent sodium from reactors on the Continent and is set to win a multi-million pound

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tive explosion at the site in 1977. Critics of Dounreay say its poor safety record means it cannot be trusted to reprocess the spent fuel rods. Activists are planning to blockade the plant as part of a campaign to force managers to abandon the work.

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AS figures are based on 10% Excapade 1.D litre 3 door 4 speed patrol engine with an agreed missage of 6,000 p.s. \*A 135.2% fee is physiole on signing a sales agency agreement, if you require, this option, Further charges early be made subject to milliage, condition and if the schicle is not returned on time. Excepts milliage charges range between 5p and 5.5p per mile as agreed at the time of and if the schicle is not returned on time. Excepts milliage charges range between 5p and 5.5p per mile as agreed at the time of and if the schicle is not returned within 30 days from the end of your Scance agreement.

While you're mulling that one over admire the special graphics, special cloth trim and body coloured bumper skirts.

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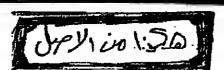
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THE RESIDENCE OF THE PLANS AND 12 MONTHS ROAD FUND LICENCE. FINANCE SUBJECT TO STATUS, WRITTEN QUOTATIONS AVAILABLE FROM PSA FINANCE, VERNON HOUSE, SICILIAN AVENUE, LONDON WC14 2QQ, OVER 18'S UNIT A SUMMATH FOR THE PLANS AND LICENCE. FINANCE SUBJECT TO STATUS, WRITTEN QUOTATIONS AVAILABLE FROM PSA FINANCE, VERNON HOUSE, SICILIAN AVENUE, LONDON WC14 2QQ, OVER 18'S UNIT A SUMMATH FOR LICENCE. FINANCE SUBJECT TO STATUS, WRITTEN QUOTATIONS AVAILABLE FROM PSA FINANCE, VERNON HOUSE, SICILIAN AVENUE, LONDON WC14 2QQ, OVER 18'S UNIT A SUMMATH FOR LICENCE. FINANCE SUBJECT TO STATUS, WRITTEN QUOTATIONS AVAILABLE FOR CAPS PURCHASED IN NOVEMBER ONLY CARS PURCHASED IN PROPERTY OF THE PORT OF TH



Cromwell Street trial: Court hears sensational testimony from witness who admits she lied over £100,000 newspaper deal

# Fred West 'confessed to 20 more killings'

WILL BENNETT

Frederick West claimed that he and his wife, Rosemary, killed another 20 young women, in addition to those they were charged with murdering, Winchester Crown Court was told yesterday - by a witness who admitted to agreeing a £100,000 newspaper deal for her story.

The couple had been involved in the killings with several other men and some of the bodies had been huried at a farm, Mr West told Mrs Janet Leach, an observer appointed to sit in on his police interviews.

Mrs Leach was resuming her evidence in the trial of Mrs West on 10 murder charges, six days after collapsing during an adjournment and heing taken to hospital in Winchester.

Yesterday, looking pale and drawn, she was pushed into the witness box in a wheelchair. She was accompanied throughout her evidence by Dr Christopher Gordon, from the Royal Hampshire County Hospital, where she had been treated since her

Mrs Leach, who suffered a stroke last year, admitted yesterday that she had lied last week about contacts with the media and said that she had verbally agreed a £100,000 deal

with Mirror Group Newspapers. The trial of Mrs West, 41, who denies the murders of 10 girls and young women whose remains were found at 25 Cromwell Street, Gloucester, and at the Wests' previous home in the city, entered its seventh week vesterday.

Last week Mrs Leach, 39, told the court she had been appointed as an "appropriate adult" to sit in as an impartial observer at police interviews with Mr West, who was found dead in his prison cell on New

She said she had built up a rapport with Mr West and that

would take sole responsibility

for the killings.
Yesterday, Mrs Leach was asked by Brian Leveson QC. prosecuting, about other mur-ders mentioned by Mr West. She said he told her that the remains of some girls had been buricd at a farm.

Mr Leveson asked: "Did you ever get to the bottom of these others?

Mrs Leach replied: "Only as to what happened to them and how many but he did not give me specific areas." Mr Leveson asked: "How

killings?'

with Mr West because he had

and she wanted to find out

who said she was belping a

where they were.

many people was he talking Mrs Leach replied: "Anoth-

er twenty." Mr Leveson asked if Mr West had revealed who else was involved in the killings. Mrs Leach said he had told her that Mrs West, another person, and some coloured men had taken

Mr Leveson said: "Are you in the position to evaluate or judge whether whatever he said to you was true or not?"

Mrs Leach replied: "No." Questioned by Richard Fer-guson QC, defending, Mrs Leach said Mr West had told her that he knew Mary Bastholm, who disappeared in Gloucester in 1968. He said he picked up the 15-year-old at a

Mr Ferguson asked: "Did you ask him about where Mary Bastholm was? Did you gather that she was dead?

Mrs Leach replied: "Yes." Mr Ferguson said: "Did you ask him where her remains

Mrs Leach replied: "He said that they were on a farm."

She said Mr West told her that the victims found at 25 Cromwell Street had died by accident and that someone else had brought their bodies back

He also told her that his he fold her that he had made a pact with his wife by which he person had killed Anne McFall,

whose remains were found near friend who wanted to write a his home village of Much hook. Mrs Leach agreed that Marcle, Herefordshire. Mr she had made the call. West was charged with her Mr Ferguson then read out

a letter, from Mirror Group murder, but Mrs West is not. She admitted that she knew Newspapers, offering £7,500 for the rights to her story. that Mr West was telling her one

Mrs Leach agreed that in Authing and the police another. Mr Ferguson said: "You did nothing about it." Mrs Leach gust MGN had provided a chalet in Somerset for herself and her family, and in Septemreplied: "I couldn't." Mr Ferguson asked: "Why was he [Mr West] prepared to take responsibility for these ber she had personally received £5,000 from the Mirror.

Mr Ferguson then put it to her that she had had a meeting Mrs Leach replied: "Because with three MGN representawould do anything for Rose." tives. "At that meeting you verbally agreed to accept an offer of £100,000 for the exclusive Mrs Leach said that after she ceased to be an observer at his interviews, she stayed in touch

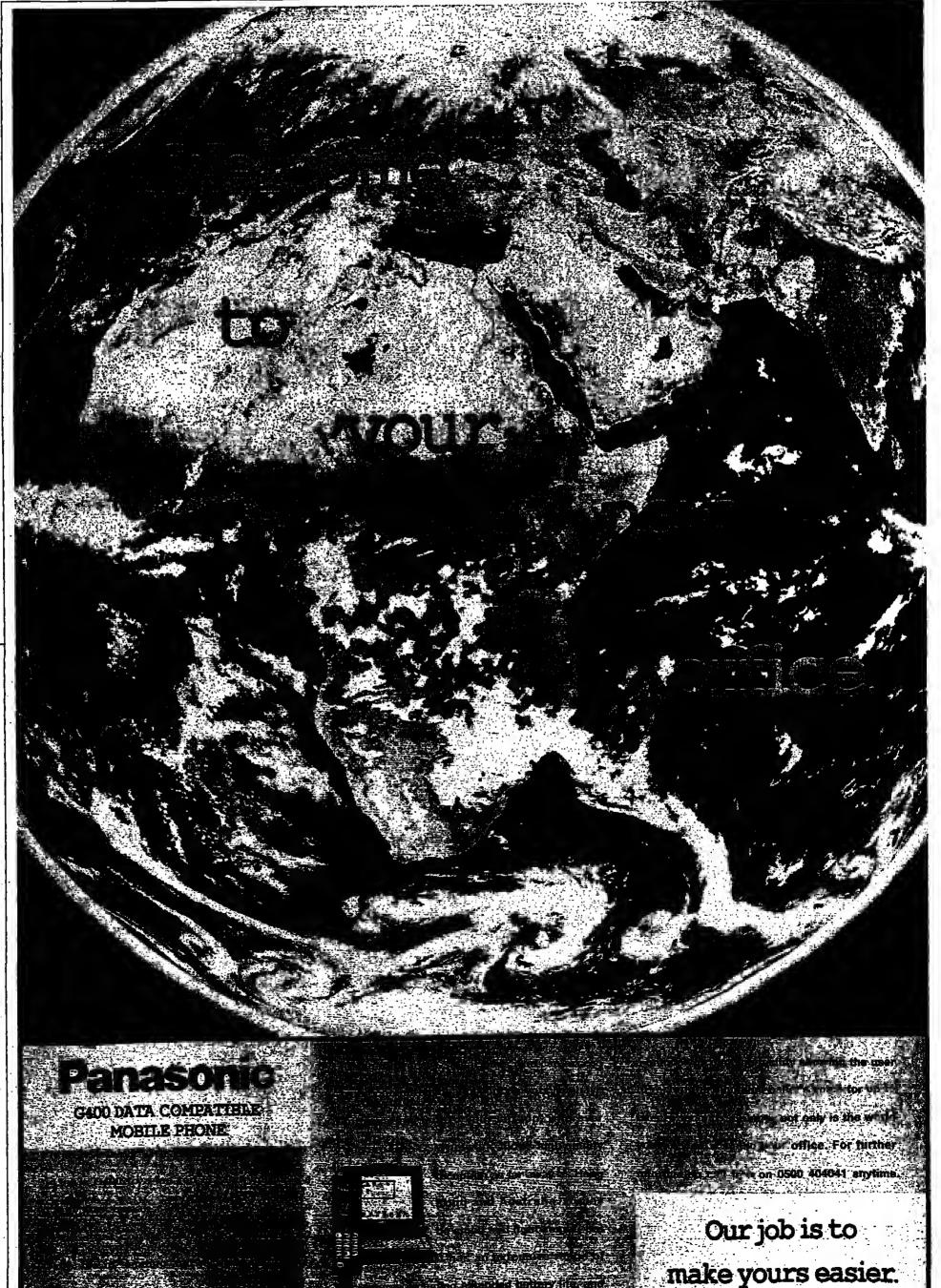
rights to your story."

Mrs Leach replied: "I have told her about the other bodies not signed anything. Mr Ferguson said: "Did you

accept that offer?" Mr Ferguson asked her about Mrs Leach replied: "Yes." Mr Ferguson said: "You were also asked if you had spoken to her evidence last week that she had not sold her story or spothe press by Mr Leveson. That ken to the media. He said that just wasn't true was it?' last year the Daily Mirror had Mrs Leach said: "No." been telephoned by a woman

The trial continues today.





#### DAILY POEM

#### Luton versus Middlesbrough

By John Hegley

Five whole goals to Luton Town and Middlesbrough not one. but though their team was five-nil down their fans were up for fun and when their consolation came before the whistle blew they echoed Luton's 'we want six' with a modest 'we want two'.

John Hegley was born in Islington, London, in 1953 and grew up in Luton. He read English and sociology at Bradford University and worked in children's theatre before becoming a performance poet. Five collections have now appeared: Glad to Wear Glasses (1990), Can I Come Down Now Dad? (1991), Five Sugars Please (1993), These Were Your Father's (1994). This poem is taken from his latest collection, just published, Love Cuts (Methuen, £8). "His words are droll and whimsical and quile often make little sense" – Luton News.

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Gas is a valuable source of energy.

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BRINGING LOW COST GAS TO BRITAIN

# The road to environmental improvement. It's never ending.

Every day at B&Q we learn how we can improve our environmental performance. But we find the more we learn, there's even more we need to

It's like travelling a desert road, no matter how far you drive, the horizon seems as far away as ever.

When we set out in 1990, the issues that faced us seemed almost overwhelming in their scope and size. So we decided our best approach would be to research the issues that affected our business, list the priorities and formulate a policy and action plan for each one, so we could reduce our impact on the environment.

We knew we couldn't create quick-win solutions but we did promise continuous improvement on a long term scale.

Since our last update in September 1994, we can report many achievements, but we have identified other issues which need to be assessed and acted upon.

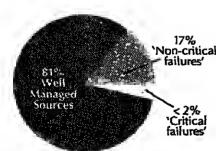
#### **Progress made:** the timber story



In 1991, nine out of ten of our suppliers could not or would not tell us where the timber they used came from. Yet half of them said that their timber came from sustainable sources. It meant we had to find out for ourselves.

By the end of 1993 we had identified all the sources of our timber products but also in 1991 we were the first retailer to sign up to the World Fund for Nature's timber target - we said, 'We will only buy timber products sourced from well managed forests from the end of 1995'.

It's a target we are confident that we are close to hitting. It has meant visiting suppliers and forests in 20 countries, repeatedly surveying over 100 suppliers and taking over 800 man days to scrutinise every timber product and its supply chain - an enormously complex process.



November 1995

The chart shows that at the time of going to press 81% of our timber products come from well managed sources, 17% is designated 'noncritical failures' - we expect to solve any outstanding problems by the end of the year. And currently, fewer than 2% are 'critical failures' and therefore we may have to seek alternative sources,

Even if B&Q is confident that all its timber comes from well managed sources, we need to go one step further for our customers. We have embarked on a programme to ensure that all timber products come from independently certified well managed forests by the end of 1999. Three product ranges - rubberwood doors, parquet flooring and red hardwood mouldings - have already been independently certified and there are ten other product ranges currently going through the process.

Below is a table which shows where all our timber comes from.

	Year of Ti	mber Audit
	1993	1994
Total timber usage bv B&Q's products	259,000 m3	283,268 m3 tan increase of 8.7%)
*• of timber by valume traced to forest level:	39%	52.6%
in of timber by volume traced to a named processing mill:	59%	45.6%
° a traced to only a regional level within a country	0.23%	0.9%
on traced to a country level only	1,41%	0.9%
Number of countries supplying timber	41	50
% of the timber originating in the UK	52%	54%
• of timber from the temperate lorests	92%	91.6%
Commonest species used	Conilers at 84%	Conifers at 85.5%
Most common tropical timber used	Rubberwood fram 4 different - Far Eastern	Rubberwood from 5 different Far Eastern
	1.9% of the total volume.	2.1% of the total volume

#### Local charcoal

This year, working with the Bio-Regional Charcoal Group, 30 B&Q stores have been stocking

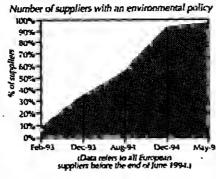
charcoal produced from their local woods. It has helped create new UK industry and stimulate and ecological economic revival of the UK's neglected woodland resource. By next season we are confident that the local charcoal (which will be stocked in about 120 stores) and all our charcoal sources, will be

#### independently certified. Not just timber

Whilst we have treated timber as a priority area, all 40,000 products we sell have an environmental impact. We have continued to work with all of our 500 suppliers to ensure that they are fully aware of their products' life cycles and have the action plans to reduce their

#### The supply chain

Our target was that by the end of last November all suppliers had to demonstrate a detailed awareness of the issues and be committed to reducing their impact. By



November 1994 94% complied with our target and those that didn't have now met our standards or no

longer supply B&Q. Having reached the point where all our suppliers had an environmental policy, the next step was to maintain the momentum and ensure that real improvements were being made.



Last July we introduced QUEST. A scheme that measures suppliers on both their quality and environmental performance. We believe that product quality and environmental issues both contribute towards our main objective - customer satisfaction. Suppliers are now measured on ten principles and are graded on their published policy, their actions, their involvement in international supply chains\*, on all aspects of packaging and their performance on timber.\* (\*where applicable). . .

#### New standards

OUEST is still in its infancy but by next year each supplier will be given a classification. Based on the quality and environmental criteria, It will range from 'exceptional supplier' to 'problem supplier'. 'Problem' and 'poor' suppliers will not have new products stocked until they have resolved the issues.

#### International supply chains

We have been concerned about high profile issues such as timber and peat but when we visited factories of suppliers in developing countries, we realised we had other issues to deal with. In many factories working conditions were poor and it's hard to justify concerns about insects in a peat bog if

the people making our products are working in potentially hazardous conditions.

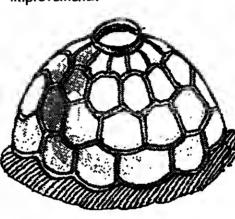
Last year we reported on our work in developing nations, including our involvement in a brassware factory in India, to improve health and safety conditions.

This year we have worked with our machine-woven rug supplier to investigate their manufacture in India. We thought the issue would be child labour but we learned from many sources that child labour is generally confined to hand knotted rug production. Nevertheless, there were other issues such as the dying of cotton yarns - using caustic soda, hydrogen peroxide and dyes - to focus our attention. A range of improvements, including the installation of a water filtration unit, were implemented once B&Q had made a long term commitment to the manufacturer's product.

#### Room for improvement

Other potential problems have been identified but still need attention. An example is capiz lampshades from the Philippines. They use capiz shells which come from free-living scallops living in sandy sea floors. Despite the legal regulations, illegal collection is not unknown. The quality of wiring at the factory, the lack of protective clothing and the use of diluted hydrochloric acid and lead solder also cause concem.

But simply ceasing trade with this factory would mean economic problems for the workers as well as the owner, so we will be making deeper investigations into capiz with a view to making realistic improvements.



Sometimes the magnitude of the problem is just too great. We visited a factory in India which makes hinges where we found conditions very poor. Potentially hazardous use of chemicals, untreated waste water, unacceptably high noise levels and incomprehensible safety warnings led us to the reluctant conclusion that we had little chance of improving conditions. We decided to transfer our business to a factory with better standards.

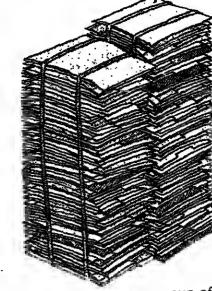
Even though we have a policy which sets out criteria for suppliers sourcing from developing nations; have visited many production facilities in these countries and have worked with suppliers to achieve some improvements, we know we have much more to do.

In the future we will continue to devote resources to ensure we find out more about working conditions in all these factories and try to improve them where feasible.

#### **Keeping our** own house in order

We have been making progress in our own operations. One of our most exciting challenges is our 'zero' waste project. Working with 12 of our stores in a pilot scheme, we are aiming to reuse and reduce one store's waste to zero and the remainder to 75%. It's a very ambitious target and even if we get close to it, we will have made a significant achievement.

Through recycling cardboard, for example, we can save up to £400,000 by not putting the cardboard into general waste skips,



and we can create revenue of an additional £400,000 by baling it up and selling it in large volumes. Proving that reducing the environmental impact of our business can sometimes save money.

#### **Customer choice**

Most of us know the benefits of insulating our houses, installing radiator flow valves and stopping dripping taps but changing our buying habits can also help.

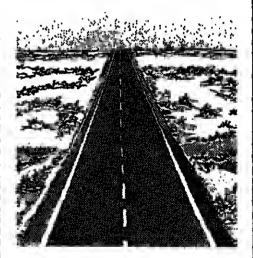
Why not buy energy efficient light bulbs, peat-free composts and water-based paints?

B&Q as a business is led by customer demand - if customers ask for environmentally sound alternatives, it will change our own buying patterns?

#### Shades of green

So, is B&Q any greener than when we started our environmental programme five years ago? Yes. Work with our suppliers, work on timber and peat and in developing nations, has definitely helped reduce the impact of B&Q upon the environment.

But, even though we've come a few miles down the road, we know that the horizon is going to remain tantalisingly distant for many years to come.



B&Q has detailed its environmental policy and action plan in its second environmental review, 'How Green is My Front Door?"

For a free copy, please fill in this coupon and send it with a self addressed envelope (at least 21cm x 22cm) to: Dr. Alan Knight, B&Q plc, 1 Hampshire Corporate Park, Chandlers Ford, Eastleigh, Hants,

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B&Q is the UK's largest home improvement and garden centre retailer with an annual tumover of some £1.2 billion. There are 280 stores throughout the UK employing over 18,000 people.



Reporting on our impact on the environment.

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(OI) Section 1985

# Lottery sales total £4.5bn in first year

REBECCA FOWLER

The lnckiest place to live in Britain is the Midlands if you want to win the National Lottery, while the players least likely to win the jackpot are based in Wales and Northern Ireland, according to research conducted for the first an-

niversary of the game.
The National Lottery, which has taken £4.5bn in sales in its first year, celebrated its unprecedented commercial suc-cess yesterday. But lottery organisers also acknowledged it has attracted an equally forceful barrage of controversy for al-

legedly encouraging gambling.
Although the survey found 89
per cent of people "approve" of
the National Lottery, 40 per cent
did not agree that it is "a harmless flutter", and nearly a third are considering a separate middid not agree that it was a "re-

ally good thing for the country".

Among the most outspoken critics is the Church of England.

Yesterday, the Rt Rev David Sheppard, the Bishop of Liverpool, called for an investigation into the lottery. "Gambling is being encouraged and artificially stimulated," said the hishop.
"The scratch cards are driving a coarb and horse through oil a coach and horse through all

the rules of gambling." David Rigg, communications director of Camelot, the lottery erage of £2.49 compared with operator, confirmed that Gamhlers Anonymous had a 17 per cent increase in calls from worried members of the public. Camelot is to co-fund research into the impact of the lottery with

an independent organisation. Forty per cent play the lottery because they find it fun. But a quarter, mostly in the 16-34 age group, are "big prize dreamers"

who play for the jackpot. More than 130 millionaires have been created by the lottery in its first year, with 20 winning over £5m and six winning over £10m. The highest number of winners, by television region, have come from the East, West and South Midlands, where there have been 53 jackpot claims, followed by 50 in London. Only 13 claimed jackpots

in Wales. While Wales accounts for 95 per cent of the national average sales, it has only 67 per cent of the national average of win-nings. Scotland has 94 per cent of sales, on an average popula-tion basis, but only 86 per cent of the wirnings. The luckier re-gions include the South-west, which has 90 per cent of sales which has 90 per cent of sales, but 113 per cent of winnings.

Camelot said that they would be extending the game over the next few years of their licence to sustain interest. They week lottery draw and more complex scratch cards.

The mid-week draw is one of the options we have, but there are lots of other games we are looking at too," said Tim Holley, chief executive of Camelot. We are want to keep sales at the same level, or with a slow level of growth."

The average weekly spend on the lottery is £2.33. Members of social group C2 have the C1s who spend the least, £2.33. Most lottery tickets are sold in London, where sales per capita are £1.55. The lottery was defended by

Virginia Bottomley, Minister for National Heritage, who said the weekly spend of £2 was "less than a packet of cigarettes" and denied it was exploiting the people least able to afford it. She also said that the age limit for buying tickets would remain at 16, and indicated it was unlikely that prizes would be capped.

Robert Stephens: 'Heir to Olivier' finally won recognition during a Shakespearian Indian summer



Sir Robert: Above, as King Lear for the RSC in 1993 (Photograph: Stuart Morris). Below, with his wife, Patricia (left) and Dame Maggie Smith at this year's Variety Club Show awards

# 'Great light' goes out as acclaimed Lear dies



DAVID LISTER Arts Correspondent

Sir Robert Stephens, one of the most talented and outrageous actors of his generation, has died at the age of 64.

His death comes just days after the publication of an intimate, revelatory autobiography, and a collaboration with the Prince of Wales on an audio cassette of Shakespearian speeches.

In the Sixties, Sir Robert was one half of a seemingly glittering showbiz marriage to Dame Maggie Smith. The marriage ended acrimoniously following Sir Robert's drinking and womanising, but the couple later became friends again.

Yesterday Dame Maggie said: "Robert was a colourful if complicated character and a very, very fine actor. Although he had been very ill, I was very saddened to hear from Patty of his death this morning."

Sir Robert, like Dame Maggie, was one of the stars of Laurence Olivier's National Theatre company in the Sixties. Some critics hailed him as a successor to

After this, Sir Robert's career went into the doldrums and he suffered from health problems. But at the start of the Nineties he was invited to act by the RSC's artistic director, Adrian Noble, who as a child had seen him in The Royal Hunt of the Sun in the Sixties. Under Noble's direction, Sir Robert played Fal-

awards, massive critical praise and, last year, a knighthood. To the surprise of many and the alarm of some, he published an autobiography this month which revealed a series of love affairs with well-known people,

staff and King Lear and won

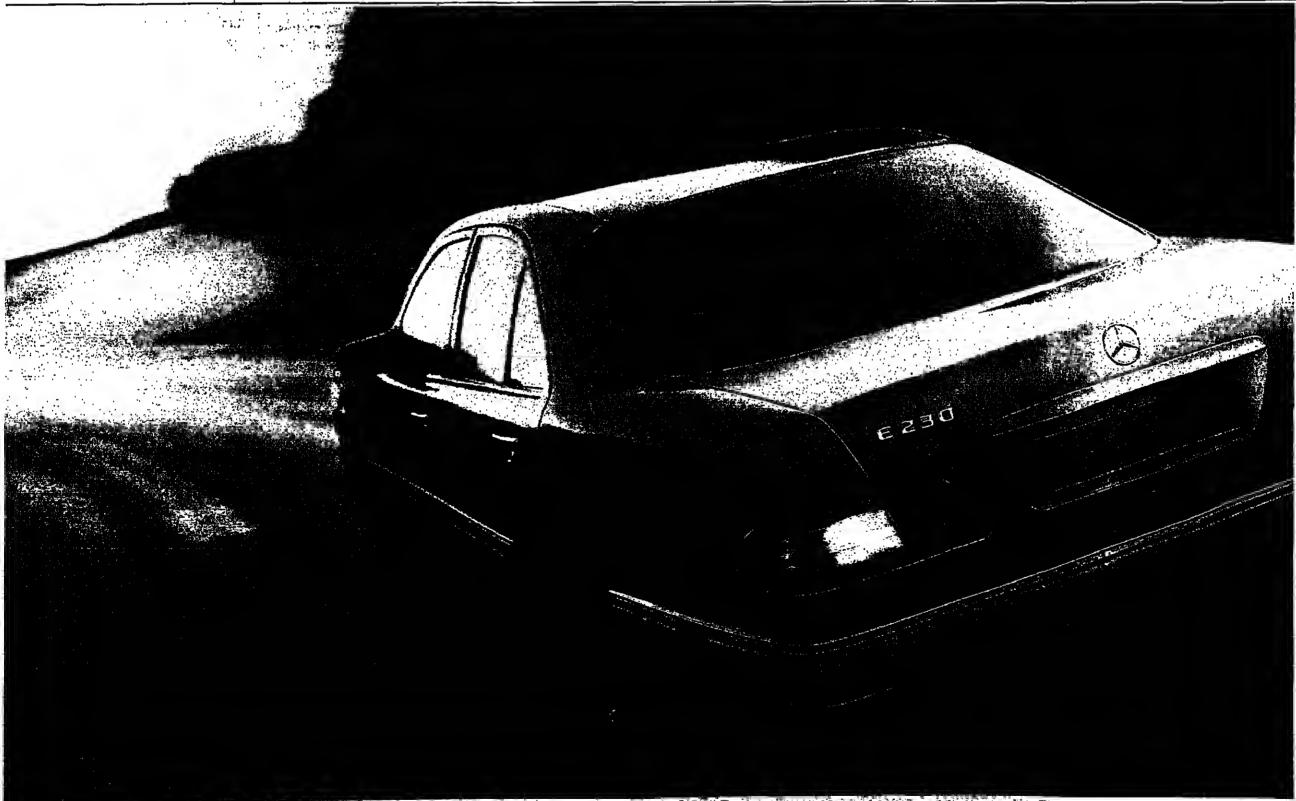
including Lady Antonia Fraser. Sir Robert, who died on Monday night at the Royal Free Hospital in London, had

undergone a liver and kidney transplant. His wife, the actress Patricia Quinn, and his actor sons, Toby and Christopher, by former wife Maggic Smith, were at his bedside when he died.

Adrian Noble said yesterday: "A great light has gone out. When Robert was on form he burned brighter than almost any other actor I knew. His extraordinary vocal and physical energy helied his weak frame and a body wracked by illness and

Sir Peter Hall, who directed Sir Robert at the National Theatre, said: "I truly admired him. Robert Stephens was one of the great actors of his generation and yet his greatness was almost undeclared until very recently when he amazed and delighted us

with Falstaff and King Lear. "Theatre people will always be reminded that great talent is often a curse as well as a blessing. Obituary, page 18



# Safety seen with fresh eyes.

in designing the new Mercedes. E-class the task for us was how to make a safe car safer. Here are some of the things we have done. Using a completely different

crash testing procedure, we have

now designed a new front end.

in a collision, it not only gives more protection to the driver of the Mercedes. Less impact energy would be imparted to the other driver, too. In fact, recent crash tests

carried out by Auto Motor und Sport'

magazine resulted in the least

safety cell ever recorded. Just as impressive, was the

level of injury measured by the crash This was also significantly lower

than any previous figure.

The new E-class also has the first safety belt system developed to work specifically with an airbae.

First, it will restrain you Then as the airbag inflates, the belt will slacken slightly allowing you to go forward. The result will be to reduce considerably the risk of any injury to vour chest.

We have padded more of the

interior. In particular, the dashboard, the steering wheel rim, the roof and the door trim.

Talking of doors, we've also developed better side protection. Both front seat passengers now have the option of side airbags which need just seven milliseconds to activate.

Of course, the usefulness of all our new safety features is something we hope you'll never actually see. The new Mercedes E-class is, on the other hand, something we hope

you do see at the earliest opportunity. For more information, call us on 0181-518 9088.



The new Mercedes E-class. Engineering seen with fresh eyes.

#### news

Poverty survey: Charities say lack of proper nutrition among pregnant women on benefits linked to higher illness in children

# Mothers' poor eating puts babies at risk

A healthy balanced diet is off the menu for the majority of pregnant women living on benetits - putting their unborn babies' health at risk, according to a new report.

The study, by NCH Action for Children and the Maternity Alliance, says the cost of an adequate diet is "virtually impossible" for many women to afford, especially mothers-to-be aged 16 and 17 who are not eligible for full benefits.

The report, Poor Expectations - Poverty and Undernourishment in Pregnancy, also revealed that 33 per cent of pregnant women on income support were falling below "seriously deficient" levels in es-

Poor nutrition in pregnancy

is linked to low birthweight (undet 2,500g or 5lb 80z) which is the single most important

cause of infant mortality.

Meanwhile, a second study published today shows that severe vitamin deficiency is putting homeless people at risk of scurvy and other diseases.

A survey of 400 by the charity Crisis found that they were only receiving one-fifth of the recommended intake of vitamin A and less than two-thirds of the

daily dose of vitamin C.
The NCH survey of 120 women estimated that the average cost of eating a realistic and nutritious diet of the kind recommended during preg-nancy was £18.12 a week - almost half the income of a single 24-year-old on benefits and 65 per cent of the income of a sin-gle woman aged 16 to 17.

Nearly all those surveyed were eating a poor diet and 76 per cem regularly missed meals. A survey of their diet during the previous 24 hours showed that 43 per cent had eaten no veg-ctables apart from polatoes and 75 per cent had had no fruit. At the same time nearly 80 per

cent had consumed sugar-rich

foods or drinks and nearly 90

per cent had eaten fatty snacks. Low birthweight babies are more likely to fall ill and to suffer from disabilities such as cerebral palsy, blindness or deafness. Poor language de-velopment low IQ and behavioural problems have all been

linked to low birthweight. Seven per cent of babies born in the UK still have a low birthweight compared with 4 per cent in most EU nations.

four low birthweight babies sur-fered disability. Thirty per cent of very low birthweight babies (1,750g) did not survive past five years old, while 16 per cent of the remainder had cerebral palsy or blindness. Tom White, chief executive of

NCH Action for Children, said: "The difficulties faced by pregnant women in eating a healthy of a lack of knowledge but of poor material circumstances and low incomes.

The charities are calling on

the DSS to introduce a premipregnancy is confirmed to ensure nutritional requirements of can be met.

□ Poor Expectations, Poverty and Undernourishment in Preger cent in most EU nations. nancy, NCH. Action, 85 Highbur. In a Scottish study, one in Park, London N5 1UD. £5.



Tight budget: Marie Vincent at a press conference to launch the NCH's report yesterday

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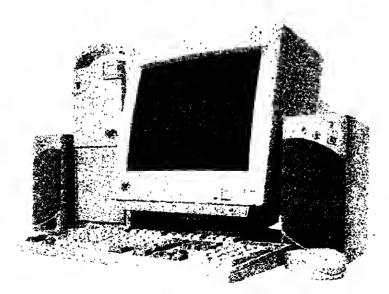
# Helpful stuff.

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TOYS'A'US

Photograph shows a multimedia model. Multimedia is not available on all models. Only one model is stocked at £1,799 (inc. VAT). See your retailer for details. Retailer prices may vary. IBM Home Page: http://www.ibm.com



# Chip-plan diet satisfies hunger on the breadline

"Chips with everything. They fill you up." is the way Marie Vincent's sums up her diet and that of ber three young children, writes Glenda Cooper.

Managing on a budget of just over £100 a week (£78 Income Support and £27 Family Allowance) for herself, Nicky, seven, Paul, three, and Roxanne, one, is difficult, she admits. And with bills coming in that have to be paid, food is the first

necessity to suffer.

Marie, 22, could not afford to eat healthily in her three pregnancies and regularly missed meals to keep her other children fed. Although all her children were average birthweight, her son Paul is now experiencing developmental difficulties which she attributes to their poor

This is not because she knows nothing about nutrition: "Of my hunger, I'd love to eat fresh course I'd like to give them sal- truit and vegetables but a bag ads and things like that, things of crisps is more filling and they should be eating, fruit much cheaper." ford it on the benefits they were eventually born with avgive you." she said. "You've got to pay the electric and the gas concerned about the future. and I put away some money in phone stamps every week. Then what's left goes on food.

cent family would begin by ei- health in later life by not being ther skipping breakfast or having a bit of toast. Nicky and Paul have their lunch at school ing while they are growing and and playgroup, and Marie deve would have some soup. Then for do?

CASE STUDY

tea "chips and a sausage or chips and fish fingers - basically chips and something."

Apart from worrying about the children's diet. Marie's own eating habits were even less healthy when she was pregnant. She began by skipping meals when money was short: "The kids would always come first you see. I couldn't take food from them."

When I cook for them, it put me off, which made it easier. After standing there cooking chips and things like that, you don't feel like eating that yourself,"

"I probably had a healthier diet during my first pregnancy but once I had other children to feed, my bealth came second and I would miss meals or eat toast or drink lots of tea to slop

Relieved that her children erage birthweight, she is still particularly asPaul is developing more slowly than other children: "I still worry that I'm A normal menu for the Vin-setting up [the children] for bad able to provide them with the healthy food they should be eatdeveloping. But what can I

#### - ADVERTISEMENT

INFORMATION EXPOSES HUGE INTERNATIONAL RING

## YARD QUESTIONS **MARQUIS ABOUT** INVOLVEMENT IN ALMERA HEIST

The Marquis De Brieve, one of Europe's foremost art collectors, has been brought in for questioning over the multimillion pound off shore Almera heist in which 5,594 new Nissans went missing.

The Marquis is also being interrogated about his involvement in the spate of Almera disappearances that bave taken place throughout Britain over the last two weeks. A spokesman for Scotland Yard told reporters that the Marquis was being 'much more co-operative' who police arrested two

days ago.
The Marquis is thought to bave revealed the presence of a huge international ring of Almera abductors recruited by the notorious Mr. Big, the

mastermind behind the operation. Police released an artist's impression of Mr. Big last week and are certain that the Marquis knows of his whereabouts and true identity. Meanwhile police are

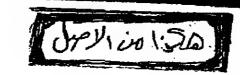
advising all new owners to remain vigilant. 'Although Nissan's highly acclaimed Anti Theft System makes Almera impossible to steal, there have been several cases where the abductors posed as parking officials

and simply towed the cars away. Nissan have assured potential purchasers that. new Almeras are available from a secret location under high security guard. Any member of the public wishing for more

information should call 034S 66 99 66.



The Marquis: co-operative



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Comm

sen

INBRIEF

Lagos — A Nigeria Airways Boeing 737, with 120 people aboard, crashed on landing and

hurst into flames et Kaduna airport in northern Nigeria, killing at least 50 people and injuring 44, a Federal Civil Aviation Authority official said. One Briton is believed to be among the in-

Kohl hits at China Peking — German Chancellor Helmut Kohl slapped China on the wrist by handing Premier Li Peng a list of 15 Chinese political prisoners, even as German firms signed deals worth \$1bn. German officials declined to say if Mr Kohl demanded the

release of the prisoners or what was Mr Li's reaction Reuter

Strasbourg - Jean-Louis Chif-fot, the father of one of two

French airmen shot down over

Bosnia two months ago, launched an anguished appeal

to Nato leaders to seek news of

the missing men in a letter pub-

lished by the French daily l'Est

Paris - The Russian-born

writer Andrei Makine won the

Goncourt prize in an unprece-dented double award. Mr Makine, 37, had received the

Medicis prize for his autobio-

graphical novel Le Testament

Français, about a boy sharing French and Russian cultures. It

was the first time the the

Goncourt jury had given the

prize to a previously rewarded

Athens - Dimitra Liani-Pa-

Naked ambition

Father's plea

Republicain.

**Double award** 

Air crash kills 50

# Summit sends tough message to 'bad boys'

STEVE CRAWSHAW

The roller-coaster Commonwealth summit in Auckland one of the most dramatic in recent years - ended yesterday with claims by Commonwealth leaders that the decisions taken

would prove to be "historic". The result was both a fudge and a great leap forward. On the half-full versus half-empty prin-

#### Envoys recalled

Nigeria yesterday recalled its envoys from abroad, retaliat-ing for similar action taken by several countries in protest at the hangings of nine minority rights activists, Reuter reports. South Africa meanwhile withdrew an invitation to Nigeria to take part in a four-nation African soccer tournament next week and the ruling African National Congress called an urgent meeting with its trade union and political allies for today to discuss ac-tion against Nigeria.

In Hamburg protesters erected a gallows outside Shell oil's German headquarters and accused it of sharing blame for the executions.

ciple, optimists and pessimists could plausibly interpret the

outcome in opposite ways.

The final communiqué incorporates the statement suspending Nigeria, with threat-ened expulsion if it does not mend its ways within two years. It also incorporates the Millhrook Programme, agreed at the weekend, which establishes a framework for ensuring that member states conform to certain hasic norms. The programme sets out options for helping, persuading and pun-ishing countries that fail to meet the required standards.

All of which is more dramatic than anything the Common-wealth has achieved before. It was the execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa in Nigeria that shocked the leaders out of their half-complacency. Suddenly, action

seemed essential as never before. Yet the action against Nigeria is far less than Nigerian human rights activists and others would like to see. They are calling for sanctions or an oil embargo, as a punishment for the hanging last week of Saro-Wiwa and eight others on apparently trumped-up charges of murder. and for other abuses of human rights. An oil embargo would hit Nigeria immediately, and hard



Defiant voice: Nigeria's Foreign Minister Tom Ikimi (right) and his advisers at a turbulent press conference in Auckland yesterday

but would also affect the commercial interests of those mposing the emhargo.

wealth relationship has been gravely and ominously altered".

Mr lkimi insisted that the commercial interests of those imposing the emhargo.

None the less, Nigeria's reaction to the suspension is significant in terms of assessing the effectiveness of the Commoowealth action. The Nigerian Foreign Minister, Chief Tom Ikimi, complained that the suspension was based on unsubstantiated media reports about the executions (implying the ex-traordinary possibility that Saro-Wiwa and the others might still be alive). Above all, he insisted that the "flexible and pragmatic character of the Common-

Nigerian military regime is loyal to the Harare declaration of 1991 which emphasised the im-portance of democracy and human rights. But, he added: "In our view they [the Harare principles were not meant to become legalistic provisions. giving unlimited mandate for interference in the internal affairs

of Commonwealth countries." His angry complaints suggested that Nigeria may be rattled by the almost unanimous response to Nigeria's defiance of the Commonwealth (the only dissenting vote was from Gambia, which itself has a military regime).

He appeared to criticise South Africa and its neigh-bours and to draw a line between the interests of southern Africa and the rest of the contineot. President Nelson Mandela has been sharply critical of Nigeria and played a leading role in its suspension. He, John Major, and the New Zealand Prime Minister, Jim Bolger, sat together on the flight to the weekend retreat, and in effect stitched up a deal for the pro-

posed suspension of Nigeria during the flight.

In one respect at least, Mr lki-mi scored a hit with yesterday's declaration. With reference to proposals to send an eminent persons' group to Nigeria, he suggested that, "for the integrity and credibility of such a group" its members should be drawn from countries where there are no political prisoners, where opposition leaders are not in jail and where press freedom is unfettered. As Mr Ikimi well knew, many of the other 52 members of the Commonwealth would not meet these criteria.

The most important feature of the Millbrook declaration is the signal it sends; at least in theory, bad-boy behaviour will no longer be permitted. Officials were optimistic yesterday that abusers of democracy, including Gambia and Sierra Leone, would get the message: "You'll see them at the next ... meeting

with democratic governments. It was confirmed yesterday that a standing action group will be formed to deal with "serious or persistent violations" of the Harare principles.

# News analysis, page 15 Comment, page 17

pandrcou, 40. Greece's con-troversial "First Lady", strode confidently into a meeting of the ruling Socialists in the Athens parliament despite publication of a new naked picture and harsh comments about her political ambitions. She makes a point of on accompanying her husband, Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou, 76, everywhere.

#### Basque protest

Paris - Eighty-one people went on trial in Paris suspected of collaborating with Basque ETA separatists as about 30 people demonstrated outside the court. The protesters, who say the accused were providing legal asylum and accuse France of staging a political trial, chanted slogans under a banner say-ing. No to the trial against

# Chinese whispers get a stormy broadcast in Hong Kong

STEPHEN VINES Hong Kong

Chief Justice Sir Ti Liang Yang thought his secret was safe when he told a senior Chinese official that the Bill of Rights, the centrepiece of the government's civil rights programme, undermined the legal system. However, the official decided to go public on what he heard.

been doing his best to get to know the new masters. He has been so successful that many believe he has emerged as a lead-ing contender for Chief Executive of the Hong Kong government when China resumes sovereignty in 1997.

However, the studiously noncontroversial Chief Justice appears to have underestimated Like many in the colonial ad- just how difficult it is to ride two bassy. Mr Zhang is also spear- versation with Sir Ti Liang.

quite prepared to trot along until it hits an obstacle; then it does what needs to done to get round it even if this means throwing the rider.

Sir Ti Liang was thrown by Zhang Junsheng, the ever-smiling chief spokesman and vicedirector of the New China News Agency in Hong Kong, which serves as Peking's de facto em-

ministration, Sir Ti Liang has horses. The Chinese horse is heading the drive to get the Bill been doing his best to get to quite prepared to trot along unof Rights watered down. Local opposition to watering

down the Bill is strong and when the Chief Justice gave the smallest hint of criticism of China's position, saying that maybe the new government could make a decision on the Bill, rather than rushing into basty action. Mr Zhang showed no com-punction in disclosing a con-

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ramme shows you simple exer-

cises that will trim, tone and

The Chief Justice said if he had known his views "would be unveiled in public, I would have chosen my words more carefully and done some research before making them".

He did not, however, deny making the remarks and confined any reservations be had about criticising the policies of his current bosses by saying: "in future, I'll not talk too much.

Yesterday the Chief Justice went to a meeting with Mrs Anson Chan, the Chief Secretary, which she described as a routine discussion. He then promised to put down on paper his views about the Bill of Rights.

The Governor, Chris Patten, has decided to say nothing. The feeling in government circles is that Sir Ti Liang has dug himself in a hole and that he will

was only being practical in wanting to curb the Bill of Rights. Other civil servants may well join Sir Ti Liang in telling Chinese officials about misgivings over aspects of policy which China does not like. However, they do not expect these views

Meanwhile, another High

Court judge, Benjamin Liu, told the Peking-controlled Pen

Wei Po newspaper that China

to reach the public domain. "Personal Pensions Survey, July 1995, unit-linked regular premium category.



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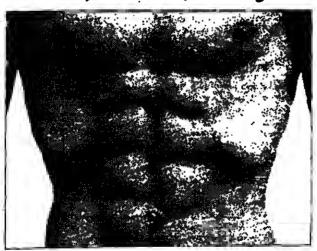
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# Do pension companies get away with over-charging?

A recent Money Management magazine survey exposed is: are these costs unreasonably high? Midland has a number of pension providers whose charges exceed 30 per cent of their customers' premiums. What might be Management survey as among Britain's lowest-cost called 'over-charging' does appear to be happening. Of course, there's no such thing as a free pansion. Setting explaining to every customer how much and when you up the plan raquires administration, and the fund must will be charged, and what costs these charges then be carefully managed for up to 25 years or more - cover. To arrange an appointment with a Midland this costs money. The question you have to ask yourself Financial Planning Manager, call us on 0800 65 65 65.

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# international

Assassination inquiry: How secret service failed to follow up information on plot to kill Rabin

# Shin Bet fights to save its skin

PATRICK COCKBURN

"Look at that cool little Yemenite: small hut a bastard. He plans to shoot Rahin."

Shlomo Halevy, a 25-year-old student and army reservist, claimed that he heard this fragment of conversation in a lavatory in the washroom of Tel Aviv Central Bus Station just after midnight on 25 June this year.

Mr Halevy heard a second man, not realising he was being overheard, ask if the Yemeni had obtained a pistol. He was told by his companion that he had the gun and had also heen twice to the synagogue to confess. The two men then discussed the likelihood of the

assassination being successful. Later the same day Mr Halevy, who was working as a reservist in the Central Command of the Israeli army, told his commanding officer about a plan to murder the prime minister. He was then interrogated by the Jerusalem police, to whom he told the same story.

His police interrogator noted that he was "a serious individual ... He is a student and intelligent." He was only questioned once and the police and the Shin Bct security service failed to find the small religious Israeli of Yemeni extraction who was planning to kill Yitzhak Rabin with a pistol.

Imagine the horror in the Shin Bet, responsible for guard-ing Rahin, on the night of 4 November when they realised that a person answering exactly to the description given by Mr Halevy four months earlier had just killed the prime minister.

Not only had the 20 Shin Bet guards let Yigal Amir fire his pistol 16 inches from Rabin's chest but the intelligence agency had failed to follow up the accurate information given to them about the assassination

Mr Halevy was immediately arrested and repeated that he knew about Mr Amir's plans but his explanation of how he knew about them changed drastically. He had first got to know Mr Amir two years ago at Bar-llan

University law school, Mildly left-wing himself, Mr Halevy had a girlfriend who was an activist in a right-wing student group at Bar-Ilan and it was she who told him about Mr Amir and his plans.

He made up the story about hearing the information at the bus station - and concealed the name of Mr Amir - in order to

All this information is known because the Shin Bet is des-perately trying to defend itself against accusations of gross negligence.

At the end of last week the Yediot Aharanot newspaper published a report that the Shin Bet had received a detailed warning ahead of the assassination but had chosen to ignore it. On Sunday morning the head of the organisation took the un-

precedented decision to send a fax to Israeli army radio giving the Shin Bet's version of events. including the original police report of its interrogation of Mr Halevy on 25 June.

The aim is to show that the Shin Bet did not have the name of the potential assassin, but the explanation may not get them off the hook.

Mr Halevy was interrogated only once. If he had reported a similar conversation among Palestinians in east Jerusalem hus station would the Shin Bet have shown so little interest? Shin Bet officials will find it difficult to escape the suggestion that if they had asked a few more questions. Mr Halevy might have disgorged the identity of the potential assassin.

Like the FBI under J Edgar Hoover, the Shin Bet has always had a talent for self-promotion but over the last year it has been hit by a series of scandals.

In April this year Abdel Samed Hrizat, a Hamas suspect from Hehron, was beaten to death when under interrogation hy Shin Bet agents in his cell in Jerusalem, In another scandal an associate of Aryeh Deri, Israeli political kingmaker and former interior minister, who is on trial for corruption, said he knewall about police tapping of an Israel his phone through friends in the this year.



Showing the flag: Palestinian policemen being fêted on arrival in Jenin after the Israelis left

Shin Bet. Former Shin Bet officers were also heavily involved in the hugging of 200 media, business and political figures by an Israeli newspaper earlier

In Israel the shock of the assassination of Rahin overshadowed the pull-out of Israeli forces from the northern West Bank town of Jenin early yesterday. After 28 years of occu-

pation, Palestinians danced and shouted "God is Great" as the last 15 Israeli jeeps drove out of the military beadquarters under PLO escort. Hundreds of Palestinians, some firing guns and others on horseback, rushed in to replace them.

It was the first transfer of a West Bank city since Rabin and Yasser Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organisation chair-

man, signed a deal in Washington on 28 September to expand Palestinian self-rule. Residents of Jenin, which has 40,000 people, joined hands and danced in the courtyard of

the military headquarters.
About 550 Palestinian policemen arrived during the day from Jericho, the only town on the West Bank to get autonomy last year.

# Bomb strikes at Saudi ruler and Western backers

MICHAEL SHERIDAN Diplomatic Editor

At 10.20am yesterday a foreign banker in Rivadh felt a sudden change in air pressure and a tremor "like an earthquake" rocked his steel and glass office as a car bomb exploded outside a US-run training centre for the Saudi National Guard.

According to diplomats in

According to diplomats in Rivadh, about 150lbs of explo-Riyadh, about 15000s or explo-sives were packed inside a Chevrolet van in the car park outside the innocuously named "Office of Programme Man-agement". Five Americans and one Filipino were killed in the attack, the first known terrorist action in Saudi Arabia since 1991. More than 60 people were injured, 30 of them

So precise was the targeting and so symbolic the target that the bombing was clearly devised to send a dramatic signal both to the Saudi royal family and to their Western allies.

The "Office of Programme Management" was a threestorey building where US mil-itary and civilian personnel were employed to train mem-bers of the 57,000-strong National Guard in internal security and the use of weapons and technology systems boughtfrom the United States. The National Gnard is commanded by Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz, the next in line to King Fahd.

With one blow the bombers thus struck at the organisation charged with maintaining the royal family in power and also at its foreign supporters. Their action highlighted the semicovert and vastly expensive op-erations which bind the Saudi system and its Western allies to-gether. The kingdom is the world's leading oil producer and has spent an estimated \$76bn (£49bn) on arms since 1987. Its defence procurement policy is closely tied to British interests through the controversial £20bn oil-for-arms Al-Yamamah deal.

The alliance between the royal family and the West draws bitter criticism from radical Muslims in Saudi Arabia itself. It is also the object of repeated denunciation by Iraq and Iran, which both abhor the increased Western military presence in the area since the 1991 Gulf war. There are about 5,000 Western troops in the Gulf and at least 8,000 US Marines and sailors

Guat

board 26 ships.
But the Sandi ambassador in
London, Dr Ghazi Algosador
was quite correct to say yesterday that this was "an isolated" incident", for the Saudi intelli-gence services have managed to maintain a high level of security despite repeated threats against stern interests.

Two little-known groups have issued specific threats against Western forces in the kingdom Earlier this year the so-called "Movement for Islamic Change in the Arabian peninsula" issued leaflets demanding that for-eign troops should leave the area by 28 June. Vesterday a caller who said he spoke for the Tigers of the Gulf claimed re-sponsibility for the blast.

Whatever the nom de guerre, there is little doubt that tightly knit groups of extremists exist within the kingdom who are dedicated to purging it of Western influence. The royal family will almost certainly choose to blame external enemies for the bombing.

But the fact is that Saudi Ara-

bia contains quite enough zeal-ous individuals - opposed to the kingdom's existing policies and motivated by a detestation of the West - to organise and carry out a terrorist campaign. Many are the so-called "Afghanis", religiously-inspired young men who went to fight Communism in Afghanistan and received training in arms and explosives from the CIA and other Western intelligence services.

These talents are now available to be harnessed to the moods of boredom, resentment. and frustration which some young Saudis harbour towards ... the ruling system. In London, a spokesman for the opposition Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights claimed yesterday that "there are very well trained young men who have weapons and they are not con-trolled by government security.

The presence of the CDLR in London has drawn complaints from the Saudi government but it has confined its activities to propaganda'denouncing the roy-al family for corrupt and irreligious behaviour.



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# international

Guatemala elections: Presidential candidates face a second round



# Clinton threatens to shut government

RUPERT CORNWELL Washington

President Bill Clinton yesterday raised the stakes further in the great hudget war with Congress by vetoing a hill that would have raised the US Treasury's debt ceiling, and vowing the same fate for another - a rejection that would virtually ensure a partial government shutdown today.
In a Churchillian speech to

the centrist Democratic Leadership Council, the President declared war on the Republican plan to balance the budget in seven years, promising to "fight it today, fight il tomorrow, fight it next week and next month." He supported a balanced hudget, but not one "that robs the American Dream from millions of Americans."

As he spoke, the Senate was winding up the debate on the second bill, permitting the gov-ernment to continue spending for a further month, despite Congress's failure to send the President a budget for the 1995/96 fiscal year, which started last 1 October. Like the debtceiling measure, it has condi-tions Mr Clinton yesterday again deemed unacceptable.

Assuming a veto, the government's spending authority would run out at midnight last night, and this morning 800,000 federal employees in non-essential parts of government would be sent home without pay. Air traffic control, the mail and the military would con-tinue. Federal museums and monuments would close, as would offices for first-time passports, social security and vet-

erans' benefits applicants. A partial government shutdown is almost routine. Feuding over the budget has led to nine brief closures since 1980. most recently in 1990, when George Bush had to break his "no new taxes" pledge, possibly costing himself re-election two

years later in the process. This time, the rhetoric is even more heated and the political stakes, arguably, even higher. At one level, the pos-turing is a game of bluff, whose object is to push the blame on to the other side, ahead of a set-

must come. But great ambitions and careers, even the 1996 presidential contest, could depend upon the outcome.

For Mr Clinton, the confrontation is a last opportunity to depict himself as a man who can stand up to pressure, a lone voice of reason bolding back Newt Gingrich, the Speaker, and his ruthless Republicans, bent on taking from the poor to line the pockets of the rich.

Hence the President's impending veto of the temporary spending bill, on the grounds that the Republicans have at-tached to it increases in premiums on Medicare, the federal health scheme for the elderly. The Republicans' goal is to

show that they mean to balance the budget and keep the promise that helped them win control of Congress in 1994. In dispute are two different visions of government's role, an argument that will underlie next year's presidential campaign. Right now, it is an argument Mr Clinton is winning in the opinion polls, even if the result in the country may be a new surge of tlement that sooner or later contempt for politicians.

Meanwhile, Robert Rubin, the Treasury Secretary, announced moves to prevent a default that might otherwise have come as early as tomorrow or Thursday, when \$102bn (£65bn) of scheduled deht interest and principal payment would have sent the government through its current \$4.9 trillion

debt ceiling. Instead, Mr Ruhin plans to find the money by borrowing from two government-run pension funds to meet the government's obligations to its creditors. In this way, economists say he could stave off default for weeks, or even months. That realisation sent bonds and the dollar higher, but shares fell on the mounting political un-

Later this week, a third presidential veto is all but certain when Congress sends Mr Clinton the omnibus "reconciliation" bill containing the blueprint of a balanced budget by 2002.

This includes \$270bn of cuts in Medicare, deep cuts in welfare, offset by income and capital gains tax cuts worth \$245bn.

## Wait for change: Voters queueing at San Andres Iztapa. Most of Guatemala's Indians stayed at home, however Ex-dictator's 'puppet' has hope of power

PHIL DAVISON

Guatemala may have to hold a run-off presidential election on 7 January despite Sunday's clear-cut victory by Alvaro Arzu, a 49-year-old travel agent and conservative former foreign

Mr Arzu, candidate of the National Advancement Party (PAN), was far ahead of Alfonso Portillo of the Guatemalan Republican Front (FRG), the party run by the former military lictator General Efrain Rios Montt. But the winner was likely to fall short of the 50 per



Arzu: 'He's a preacher who has hasn't been converted,' said one voter

cent necessary to avoid a twoman run-off in January.
As supporters of the 17 elim-

inated candidates shift allegiance. Mr Portillo, considered something of a puppet of General Rios Montt, could move ahead leaving the former scorched earth dictator as the power behind the throne.

The newly-formed social democratic New Guatemala Democratic Front, with a solid Mayan Indian base, was a distant third in Sunday's vote. It

NEWBURY

Where Castles In The Air Take Shape

was the first time the Left had participated in elections since the return to democracy in

But as always in Guatemala's recent democratic history, most of the country's Indians - 60 per cent of the population - stayed home and the overall turn-out looked like being below 50 per

Many Guatemalans who abstained recalled what had happened to the last man they elected. Jorge Serrano, elected in 1990, dissolved Congress in 1993 and tried unsuccessfully to seize dictatorial powers. Ramiro de Leon Carpio, then the country's buman rights ombudsman. was named by Congress to fin-ish the presidential term.

Individual issues were barel a factor. For illiterate Indians, the vote came down to personalities, all of whom largely promised the same - an end to impunity for criminals, an end to discrimination against Indians, peace with the guerrillas and righting the inequality between the wealthy ladino (white) élite and the 80 per cent the live below the poverty line.

All parties used simple symbols on their ballot slips. One candidate, a wealthy landowner known as "the man in the hat", used a symbol of a somhrero. Another used a rubbish lorry, symbol of how he planned to clean up the streets. Even many illiterate people could recognise the acronym PAN as the most important word in their vocabulary - "bread".

"It's all a show. Nothing will change under Arzu," Juan Hernandez, a 43-year-old Kakchiquel Indian, told me in the town of Chimaltenango. "He's a preacher who hasn't been converted. Los poderosos the powerful ones! only like us during campaign time, then they ignore us again. They say we Indians do not have the preparation to govern but they won't let us govern. It's just like South Africa."

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# Paris snub deepens Nato leadership crisis

Sarah Helm

CHRISTOPHER BELLAMY

Nato's desperate search for a new secretary-general was looking even more frantic yesterday as the alliance plans for its biggest military operation yet. the peace-implementation force in the former Yugoslavia.

France snubbed the only current declared candidate, the for-mer Danish foreign minister, a Foreign Ministry spokesman.

Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, in a gesture of thinly-disguised contempt, while the US and Geroma, used a similarly dismissive many put new pressure on Douglas Hurd, the former foreign secretary, to enter the ring. The French yesterday banned reporters from covering the Danish candidate's meeting with the French Foreign Minister, Hervé de Charette, at the Quai d'Orsay. "We have never even spoken about Mr Elle-

spokeswoman, Catherine Col-oma, used a similarly dismissive turn of phrase. "We have no def-

Mr Ellemann-Jensen does not live up to one the three French criteria for a new secretary-general; he does not speak French. The other two are that the candidate should support Nato enlargement and closer integration of Nato with the European Union through the Western European Union

(WEU). France would have liked the former Dutch prime minister, Rund Lubbers, but the US vetoed his candidacy last week. That decision had more to do with offence at the effrontery of the European fail-ure to consult them sufficiently than with the quality of Mr Lub-

bers as a candidate. Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, is understood to have obtained backing from Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, for a Hurd bid.

tained the backing of the prospective candidate himself,

who remains adamant that he is not interested in the Nato job. Washington has already tried to get Mr Hurd to change his mind but close advisers of the former foreign secretary said yesterday that he still had no in-tention of doing so. The crisis following the res-

ignation of the Belgian secre-tary-general, Willy Claes, over meial scandal is the most

However, the allies have not ob- important issue being discussed in the margins of the WEU ministerial meeting in Madrid

which began vesterday.

Britain's Secretary of State for Defence, Michael Portillo, attended a meeting of the 13-nation West European Armaments Group. The main WEU meeting, between the foreign ministers of the 10 full WEU members, plus eight observers and associate members, takes place today. This afternoon they will be joined by ministers

ners" from Eastern Europe.

The meeting is the last before Britain takes over the presi-dency of the WEU at the end of the year. The main topics are Britain's presidency and the treatment of defence issues at next year's EU inter-Govern-

mental Conference.
Britain continues to press for the WEU to be the main forum for European defence cooperation in the field of crisis management, humanitarian aid .

to stress this throughout a presidency. Any more weight military problem is likely in bring in the non-European members of Nato - the US and

The British position envisings reinforced partnership between an autonomous WEU and its EU which might include job task forces of incited duration But any asserpation of the WEU's defeace function is

# Croats indicted for war crimes

The Hague (AP) — The Yu- of Ahmici firing automatic goslav war crimes tribunal weapons, shot down an estiyesterday announced the indictment of six Bosnian Croat leaders accused of wiping out a Muslim community in central Bosnia. However, UN officials in Sarajevo said they will continue to co-operate with those

The crimes the six are accused of were carried out on "such a wide scale and widespread basis, and implemented in such a systematic fashion that they have effectively destroyed or removed almost the entire Muslim civilian population in the Lasva Valley" in central Bosnia between May 1992 and May 1993, according to tribunal papers.

Dario Kordic, chairman of the Croatian Democratic Union in Croat-held Bosnia, and Tihofil Blaskic, chief of staff of the Croatian Defence Council (HVO) in Bosnia, were charged with crimes against humanity and war crimes. The Croatian Democratic Union is the sister party of Croatia's ruling Democratic Union of President

Franjo Tudjman. Mr Blaskie and Mr Kordic were accused of responsibility for the actions of units who destroyed at least 14 towns in the Lasva River Valley, including the notorious Ahmici Massacre on 16 April, 1993, when HVO

mated 120 people and burned their homes

The indictments attracted criticism from a senior Bosnian Croat official. Jozo Lentar, Deputy Interior Minister of both the Bosnian Muslim-Croat federation and the self-styled Bosnian Croat state, said that both sides committed mistakes during the Croat-Muslim conflict but that they should now stick together and gather data

for federal authorities.
"I think that somebody's up to slowing down or even stop-ping the functioning of the federation." Mr Leutar said. "We cannot allow that our leaders be in the papers mentioned in such contexts while we know that they have contributed to the creation of the federation." Mr Leutar said the tribunal should concentrate on crimes committed by Serbs.

■Washington — The US Sec-

retary of State, Warren Christopher, will join the Bosnia peace talks in Ohio today but his intervention is unlikely to result in an early comprehensive Balkan settlement, his spokesman said. "It is extremely unlikely. if not highly improbable, that there will be a comprehensive peace agreement reached tomorrow, said the State Department spokesman,



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# Juppé tries to head off social security

The ferocious argument about the future of France's health and social security system entered its final stage yesterday with the opening of a two-day debate in the National Assembly by the prime minister, Alain Juppé. The debate, expected to be acrimonious, with deep divisions on the right as well as between right and left, is intended to pave the way for Mr Juppé

forms tomorrow, when they will be made the subject of a vote of confidence.

With the prospect of widespread public sector strikes looming today, Mr Juppé was clearly concerned not to be accused of making "cuts" for their own sake and insisted that the crisis facing the social security system - popularly known as the Secu-was not just financial. It lay, he said, in the inability of the system to combat "the two great plagues that

ployment and deprivation". markedly better life-expectan-Swelling costs, especially of the health service, and stagnating revenue, however, are at the root of the problem. The Sécu's annual deficit increased from 10bn to 60bn francs between 1990 and 1993, and its debt for this year is expected to reach Fr64bn (£8.4bn).

Mr Juppé said yesterday that France spends 25 per cent per head more on health care than ropean league - without having franc under acute internation-

cy or perinatal mortality rates than anyone else. He also noted that the cost of operations could vary by 50 per cent from one region to another.

Soon after taking office, Mr Juppé said that he intended to bring the Secu back into balance on its current account within two years. But its accumulated debt stands at between Fr120bn and Fr230bn. The task became Germany and 60 per cent more more orgent two weeks ago afthan Britain, and tops the Eu- ter President Chirac, with the

to say that his absolute priority was reducing the Fr320bn domestic budget deficit. Although the Sécu is run separately from the state budget and funded almost entirely by workers' and employers' contributions, its debts have to be serviced by the

The problem represented by the system has been recognised by successive recent French governments, but the search for a solution raises similar passions

difference, especially on the right, is whether revenue should be increased or spending cut.

Mr Juppe is believed to favour the introduction of a "temporary" contribution to be paid by workers and em-ployers to eliminate the Sécu's debt. The taxation of family allowances appears to have been ruled out, but this and other family benefits could be frozen.

Edouard Balladur, the former premier, has warned strongly against increasing tax

# Fast-growing Greens revive German left's hopes of power

Germany's demoralised left is bolic state, left-wing sympaabout to get a wake-up call. As thisers have oot given up hope in Buddha-like serenity, his Social Democrat opponents will be aimlessly zig-zagging their way through a bleak political landscape and hurling abuse at one another at their annual party congress this week.

If the congress runs according to script, the SPD will reluctantly re-elect its bumbling leader, Rudolf Scharping, and plunge deeper in the opinion polls. The task of catching up with the Christian Democrats,

polls, will seem forlorn.

But despite the SPD's shamon the coat-tails of the reincarnated Greens. For while the Social Democrats have wallowed in self-pity, the Greens have been scooping up votes in regional elections and rising in the national polls. Once the laughing stock of the political scene, Petra Kelly's heirs have grown up and now claim to be

preparing for government. Since last year's general elections, when they returned to the Bundestag with 49 MPs, after As the SPD stumbles, revamped environmentalists have emerged as the driving force in a radical coalition challenging Chancellor Kohl

four years in the wilderness, the Among university students, years ago the Greens were events in former Yugoslavia, noto work the streets."

The "streets" are is presence in regional assemblies. Struggling to clear the 5 per cent threshold for seats in their first years of existence, their score now regularly runs into double figures. In last month's elections to the Berlin assembly, they captured more than 14 per cent of the vote. The Greens are part of the govern-ing coalition in three federal states, and have high hopes of gaining administrative experi-

ence in a few more next year.

Britain, Greens have become the party of first choice. According to a recent poll by Die Zeit, the SPD, which 20 years ago enjoyed 45 per cent support, now gets only 18 per cent of the campus vote. The Greens have 35 per cent.

Ludger Volmer, a Green MP, said: "A lot of natural SPD supporters are coming to us at the moment." His party knows all about the electoral consequences of domestic rows. Five abroad has been tempered by

liament after a period of war-fare between "Fundis", the fundamentalist wing which wanted permanent revolution. and the "Realos", the advocates of voter-friendly realpolitik.

The rout of 1990 allowed the Greens to regroup. The "Fundis" returned to their communes, and the "Realos" set about moulding a softer image. Even their opposition to the deployment of German troops

"Zero growth". the economic orthodoxy of yesteryear, has become today's heresy. "We don't say we want zero growth, but we say growth must not be the guiding principle of the economy, explains Mr Volmer, spokesman of the rump left wing in the party.

Green membership is soaring, up by 10 per cent last year, but at 44,000 is not enough to compete with their bigger rivals. "We have problems at the local

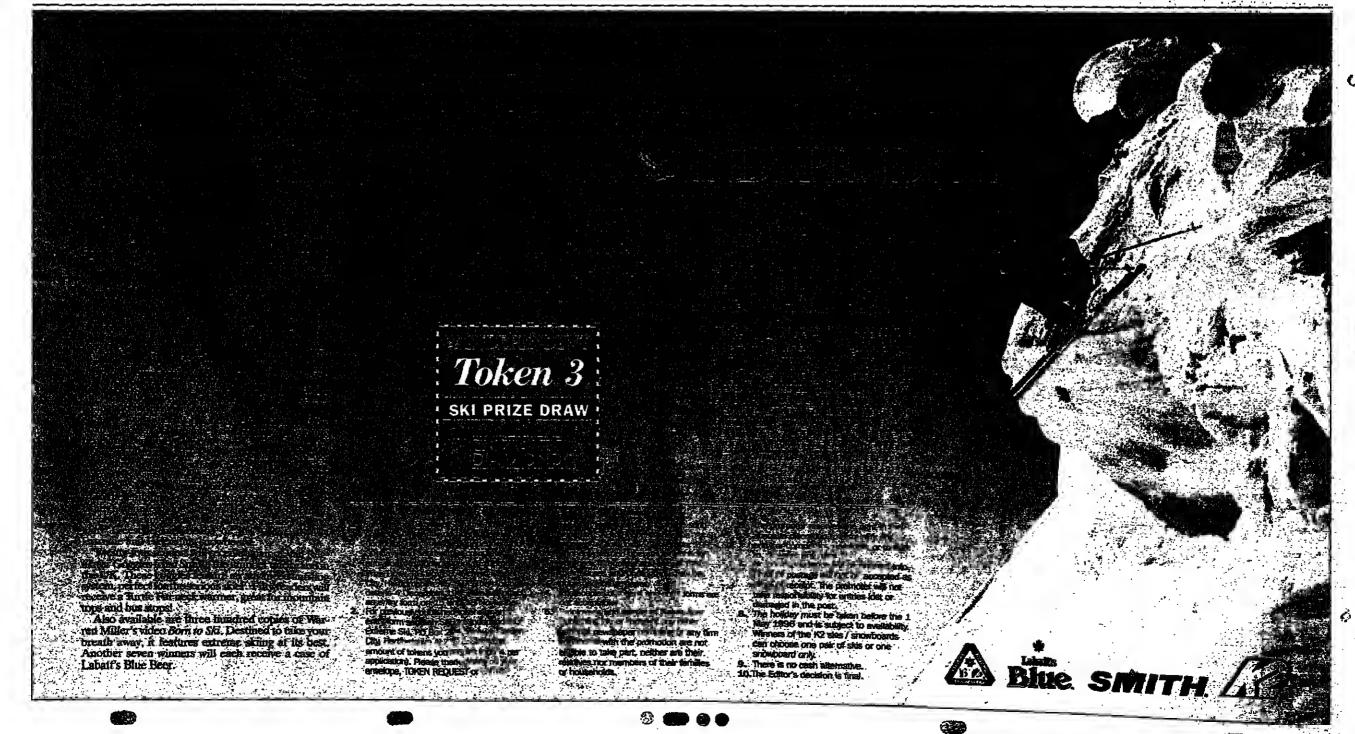
to a movement that must stay close to its roots to survive. Despite their more mature posture, the Greens have not lost a sense of fun, or their earnest fanaticism about ecology, minorities and women. Other parties have encroached on these issues, but only the Greens carry conviction with the voters.

This could change if the party gets into national government. From the Green point of view, that would require the

successful at elections," Mr sent, but not too well. Mr Volmer said, "Our activists get. Volmer rejects the option of elected, so there is no one left forming a coalition with Mr Kohl's party as absolutely imstabilised, because they are part of our Red-Green coalition

> project," he says.... The mathematics of a Red-Green victory in the general elections in 1998 are complex. The Social Democrats must take votes on the right from a popular Chancellor, and leave the left flank unguarded. The odds are stacked against such a scenario, but the Greens have overcome bigger odds in the

> past. The rest is up to the SPD.



Should Shell bring the Nigerian government to heel? Can consumers force the company to act? Yvette Cooper reports

# Can the people move an oil giant?

bell's public relations team must She tearing their bair out. Just when the Brent Spar had finally dropped out of the headlines, up comes Nigeria, and Shell is in the firing line once more. Earlier this year Greenpeace brought Shell to its knees over the disposal of an oil storage buoy in the Atlantic, And the execution of nine minority rights activists in Nigeria last week provoked allegations that Shell, the piggest multinational in the country, had supported a brutal military

These are trying times for multi-national companies. They are expected to operate according to the highest environmental and ethical standards no matter where in the world they are based. And, suddenly, they are being called upon to intervene and make judgements on the local politics of the countries in which they work. Last week, Anita Roddick wrote in a letter to the financial Times that Shell should condemn the execution of the activist Ken Saro-Wiwa. "What power can stop it?", wrote Ms Rod-

dick. "Shell can stop it."
Of course, Shell could never be a Body Shop. Oil and natural resource companies are not like traders. They cannot make and break contracts at

Oil companies' power peaks when revenue from natural resources becomes the regime's only remaining support

the drop of an executioner's axe. Energy projects can take years to plan and years to complete, and it can be decades before you get a return on your investment. Shortterm political demonstrations are simply not an option.

But alongside the limits on their freedom to manoeuvre, oil companies also have greater power and greater responsibility. Their power peaks precisely when a government and an economy are in trouble - and the revenue from natural resources becomes the only remaining support Mr the figure. Right now, the ou revenues from operations by Shell, Elf. Agip and other oil multinationals are helping the Nigerian military government to survive.

At the same time, oil companies are often more deeply involved with dubious governments than other kinds of companies ever need to be. As their work involves extracting and exploiting a country's natural resources, they are inevitably drawn into joint ventures with government. Shell works closely alongside Elf and Agip in joint ventures with the government-owned Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation

In 1989, 150 tons of announced its enezuelan crude oil withdrawal from Burma. eaked into the Mersey The company said it from a Shell pipeline, was for purely causing a 20-mile stick commercial reasons and killing 300 sea blrds. The incident cost but others have contended that lits the company £14m in operational losses decision was backed Shelfs The United infiluenced by the Nations and Opec plans to dump the autocratic nature of and clean-up called for a boycett, of oil supplies in the Brent Spar oil platform in 6,000 feet of charges, and in 1990 Shell was fined £im. the regime and its human rights record. ater off the Outer Eighties, but Shell Five tons of crude decided not to pull out of lebrides. But the oil seeped into the its mining, chemicals and company caved in under Mersey in 1990 petroleum-related pressure from industries in South Greenpeace in June. Africa. It argued that Its Come September, employees did not suffer racial apologised for overestimating the amount of oil left discrimination. MOUNTAINS despite reports to the contrary from Eiris, the UK ethical inside. The Spar is in manufactured a Norwegian fjord pesticides and demage through oil while companies investor service herbicides on a US soils in the area Army site near Denver inhabited by the Ogoni tribe, but it will go ahead where nerve gas had been made. In 1970, the US Army with a £2.7br gas investment project. About 14 per cent of Shell's global oil production comes from Nigeria warned. Shell that it would be Table for 85 per cent of the costs of cleaning it up. Shell sued its Insurers in 1983 for its share of the costs. Six years later, the company's appeal against state jury ruling that the Shell's great liable was dilemmas

(NNPC). These international companies are also inevitably affected by the Nigerlan government's failure to standards, and by its inability to broker a compromise between oil interests and local farmers who are so disrupted by exploration.

In Nigeria, opposition to the government and opposition to Shell bave become intertwined. Ken Saro-Wiwa called on Shell to pay \$1000 compensation to the Ogoni people for alleged environmental damage to their homeland: Given that Shell's actions were central to Saro-Wiwa's protests, the company was bound to come under pressure to condemn his executioners.

Two questions arise out of this

crisis for Shell in Nigeria. First, how much should we expect multinationals to do in the cause of human rights: Second strong enough and sufficiently determined to make them act ethically?

Clearly, big companies have a responsibility to avoid being party to corrupt deals or violent and oppressive government action. Where a national government is unable or unwilling to implement adequate environmental standards, it is wrong for a multinational to take advantage of the situation and blithely linte the country.

That said, it is often difficult to know how effective businesses can be when they intervene in politics and human rights. Although outright

sanctions and disinvestment were. effective in South Africa's case, a few public condemnations from Shell about the Nigerian dictatorship might not make much difference to

the military government's belligerent behaviour. These ethical dilemmas may be taken out of Shell's hands. If international governments decide to impose an oil embargo, then Shell has no choice but to get out of Nigeria. Meanwhile, Shell and others will be weighing up how their losses in the outraged Western consumer markets

its in Nigeria. In a global market with an international media and international pressure groups to publicise emeanours, me behaves in one market is vulnerable to consumer boycotts in another.

The phenomenon of ethical consumption has been growing for years. It dates back to the student boycotts of Barclays because of the bank's links with apartheid, cam-paigns against Nestlé over haby milk formulae, and the legal battle for compensation in thalidomide cases. According to recent research by the Co-operative Wholesale Society, three out of five consumers say they are prepared to boycott firms or stores over their ethical standards. balance against their continued prof- At the same time, ethical investors

are flexing their muscles across British industry. Pirc, a corporate governance consultancy launched in 1980, advises on cinical investthan £70bn. Instead of telling investors to get out of certain distasteful companies, it encourages

them to buy shares and change the companies' policies. It took 20 years of campaigning to get Barclays out of South Africa. Yet it took only months of protest from Greenpeace to get Shell to back down on the Brent Spar, The next few months will reveal whether the latest outery against Shell is little more than noise. It may be that consumers really bave become an irre-

sistible force.

#### The Ogoni operation

Shell, the world's largest oil com-pany, has been caught up in a maelstrom of protests after the execution at the weekend of the Nigerian writer Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight fellow political activists.

The political impasse posed by Nigeria's military government represents a public relations nightmare for Shell, which is accused by environmentalists of having polluted the Ogoni region. The executed men bad been campaigning for a greater share of oil revenue from the government, political self-determination and ownership of the oil beneath the land.

In some countries, notably Germany, protesters have accused the Anglo-Dutch conglomerate of being partly guilty for the executions because of its close involvement with Nigeria's military regime. Demon-

strations in this country have closed a number of Shell petrol stations.

The Shell Development Company of Nigeria, a unit of the Royal Dutch Shell Group, has been involved in Nigeria for almost 60 years and, if its recent statements are to be believed, it will continue to produce oil in Africa's most populous country for decades to come.

Oil revenues provide about 90 per cent of Nigeria's foreign exchange earnings and some 80 per cent of the federal government's total revenue.

Shell's production of about 300,000 barrels of oil each day represents 14 per cent of its worldwide production of crude oil. The company produces about balf of Nigeria's oil in partnership with the government and with Agip of Italy and Elf of France, Shell has said it is still interested in going ahead with a £2.7bo gas investment project. The company is due to make a decision before the end of the year about whether or not to proceed. The Prime Minister, John Major, says he wants to talk to Shell about its plans.

Analysis say Shell's operations in Nigeria are not very profitable in global terms. It is believed that Shell is making about \$1/2m per day there. This might sound like a fortune but in oil terms it is considered modest. Last year Shell made a net profit of nearly £4hn; that is the quivalent of about £11m per day.

The company is committed to returning to the Ogoni region but only if it can do so peacefully. It stopped operating in the area in Jan ments and has clients worth more uary 1993, having endured threats. intimidation and physical violence against local staff.

Shell accepts that its operations in Ogoniland have caused some environmental problems hut, in the words of a company spokesman. "these do not add up to devastation".

Shell is funding a \$4.5m environmental study of the Ogoni region in an effort to determine the extent to which the company is responsible for damage to the land. The study will be conducted by a group of international consultants and is due to start next year. David Orr

# Diary

#### DAVID LISTER

Even for a master of the art of public relations, this assignment is a toughte. The government of Nigeria is looking for a PR company that will help improve its image in Britain, and advise on the transition to democracy. And not any nld PR company. The Nigerian High Commissioner has approached Sir Tim Bell, former adviser to Margaret Thatcher and the man famously responsible for the David Mellor and family photocall.

A photocall that would present General Sani Abacha and his military junta A photocall that would present General Sani Abacha and his military junta in a favourable light was too dannting a prospect even for a man of Sir Tim's talents. He tells me that his agency, Lowe Bell, has turned down the High Commissioner's request. "We advise on general elections all over the place, but we felt make to represent the Nigerian government," he said. An hit we felt make to represent the Nigerian government, he said. outbreak of scruples in public relations, or a recognition that some clients bave too big an image problem? I leave you to judge.

David Hockney's best piece of performance art for years - his hourlong press conference at the Royal Academy where he held up a reproduction of an 18th-century painting of a semi-naked child and dared Scotland Yard to come and arrest him - will have a follow-up performance, I gather.

Hockney's anger over the arrests of Julia Somerville and Jeremy Dixon for taking photographs of her daughter naked in the bath bas provoked the increasingly shy, increasingly reclusive and increasingly deaf artist to ask for a public platform to challenge Parliament, Scotland Yard and Boots the Chemist. He intends to give a public lecture at the



Royal Academy in the new year calling on Parliament to change the laws covering photography. It will be one of the first times that the Royal Academy has taken a political stand on art since Sir Joshua Reynolds was asked to advise Parliament about . pictures in the 18th century.

It is unlikely though that Hockney would want a similar role for himself. He remains attached to life in the Hollywood hills, and so hates the bustle of London that when flying to see his 95-year-old mum in Bridlington, he flies from LA to Amsterdam and then back to Humberside airport to avoid having to set foot in the metropolis or its airports.

I worry that I am a jims on the English National Opera. A dozen or so years ago I attended a performance of Rigoletto in which the chap playing the title role lost his voice mid-way and an Italian baritone was found who stood on the stage singing the role in Italian while the rest of the cast acted and sang around him in English Surreal stuff.

But not as surreal as last Friday night when Louise Winter, playing Carmen in Jonathan Miller's ENO production, lost her voice after the second act and a former Carmen, Sally Burgess, was spied in the andience and persuaded to come on stage and sing the part. This she did, in French -

she has just played the part at the Met in New York, while Miss Winter remained on stage to provide the action, and mime to English words
that weren't being sung. It reminded
me of a vintage Top Of The Pops.
A shamefully unaesthetic and

mercenary side of me wondered what it takes to cajole an off-duty diva on a night out with bubby, and in casual clothes, to come on stage for the last act and take part in a production she has never seen in front of 2,600 people. A world tour with Pavarotti? A contract to sing at the next royal wedding? £500? I'm happy to say that the latter at least is more or less what Miss Burgess did get, a full performance fee for her one act of bravery. And well deserved, too.

My shoes are scuffed, my toes are bruised; I have a nosebleed and I am off to the dry cleaners. Fellow Britpop admirers will recognise me as an Oasis fan.

I attended the world's larger indoor concert, standing with 19,000 or so others in the arena at Earl's Court. More accurately, I stood; the other 18,999 pogoed. This means that the entire audience jumps up and down on the spot, in most cases while holding pints of beer. The origin of this new listening aid is unclear, but it does demand great skills of balance, and some balletic prowess. Those attending Oasis gigs later this month should be warned that Britpop fans do not possess this agility. And attending a pop concert now is only slightly less dangerous than when Rolling Stones gigs were patrolled by the Hell's Angels.

If you can't join them, upstage them. Norman Lamont will not have much chance of standing in the front row to listen to the Queen's Speech tomorrow, so he has decided to make regal-sounding pronouncements himself. He will launch his book, Sovereign Britain, a titillating title which is actually a collection of eeches and articles with a Union Flag design on the front. To imagine that it might overshadow the other news event of the day takes, shall we say, admirable self confidence.

Here is a question for all GCSE and A-level students. What is a Honeywagon? This imaginationboggling vehicle was used on the set of the new James Bond film, Goldeneye. A BBC schools programme looks at the making of th Bond film, and an appendix in the study guide lists the facilities needed for the production unit. Among these is "I x Honeywagon ready on location at 06.30". Is this where Pierce Brosnan and his female co-stars get to know each other before a day's shooting, or is it perhaps a leftover prop from the last Winnie The Pooh

Eric Clapton was in melanchotic mood as be received the special merit award at the Q magazine awards last week. He arrived hotfoot from receiving his OBE from the Queen to find he had

film? Well, in a way. It is, says United

International Pictures, the portable

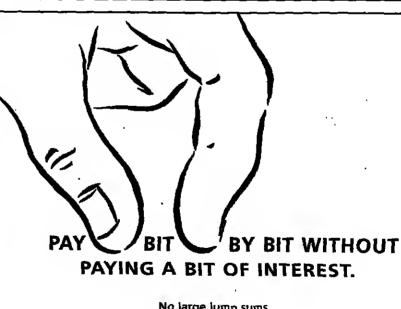
loo. It's good to know that even the

mobile toilet staff on the set are infected by the Bond glamour ethos.

won one of the top rock prizes. But as he received it, he mused, stony-faced, about magazines in general. "I don't like reading nagazines," he affirmed in an angstridden mumble. "They make me feel less than', make me feel I have to compete." If a man who had just come from Buckingham Palace and whose fans nickname him God has an inferiority complex, what hope is there for the rest of us?



Even 'God' feels small



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# \* INDEPENDENT

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# The CBI's place in the middle

The Confederation of British Industry is wobbling precariously along a political fence, between the Tory government and what many businessmen privately acknowledge looks increasingly like a Labour administration in waiting. So far it bas done well to prevent Tory businessmen, as well as politicians from either side, pushing it off, either to left or to right.

The CBI cannot afford to offend the government in power, not only because ministers still have their hands on the levers that matter but also because an influential body of members quite clearly wants its organisation to take sides, by acknowledging that business's real friends are the Tories. Politically committed members will regard neutrality as next to treachery. As the election approaches, the pressure on the CBI to come out more clearly in favour of the Government will be enormous. Probably as a response to too many headlines last week about the CBI cosying up to the Opposition, Sir Bryan Nicholson, president of the CBI. went out of his way on Sunday to dismiss the idea of partnership with Labour, describing what is going on as just a dialogue.

But then dialogue is what this has been about all along, not phoney partnerships of the type Lahour has claimed with BT. No sensible lobbying body with the interests of its members at heart can contemplate any other course than finding out what Labour policies are, and then do its best to influence them.

In speeches in Birmingham this week. the CBI has been throwing bricks at both sides. It is bitterly critical of the damage likely to be done to business by the Government's squabbling over Europe, wary of the Chancellor in case he gives away too

much in the Budget, and particularly con-cerned that he is relying on the Private Finance Imitative as a fig-leaf to cover cuts in public spending on infrastructure, which directly affects members' order books. Equally, the employers intensely dislike Labour's minimum wage and its intention to sign up to the European Social Chapter: they are reassured by Tony Blair's comforting words on inflation and tanation policy and his backing for high rewards for success in business, which he took a step further vesterday, to resounding applause from the conference. But they wonder whether good intentions will survive the stresses and strains of government, and whether the small print of the policies, which Mr Blair skirts round, will reveal something scarier.

Throughout the Eighties the CBI was in the wilderness, partly because of the bare-knuckle fights promised at its 1981 con-ference, when recession was battering its members: equally, the Government's policy for industry was long centred on shifting the balance of power away from the unions. There was not much left for the CBI to lobby about. That has changed, both at the level of detailed policies for industry -Michael Heseltine reinvented the Department of Trade and Industry when he was there - and in the debates about government spending, taxation and Europe.

By occupying the middle ground - what is left of it now that Labour has moved closer to the centre - the CB1 is in a position to influence events in a way it has not experienced since the days of beer, sandwiches and corporatism in the Seventies. It would be foolish indeed of the employers to come off the political fence and destroy that influence.

# The agony of **Ecstasy**

The drug Ecstasy can kill those who cannot be wished away. The authorities L take it. That much now seems to be beyond dispute. One moment on Saturday night, Leah Bett was enjoying her 18th birthday party; the next, she had collapsed simply be driven further underground. a. However infrequently such events take place, no one any longer can regard this as simply a "happy drug" with no ill-effects.

But what should be done about Ecstasy? It is a class "A" drug, bracketed with heroin and cocaine. Suppliers face jail and anyone caught using it can expect a criminal record. Many people, horrified by this most recent tragedy, will now call for a crackdown, including longer prison

sentences. This is an understandable response. But it is not the answer. Ecstasy is the biggest recreational drug to have hit Britain since cannabis. Thousands of young people take it to get the high-energy effect that is so well-suited to dance culture. Most people who use it do so with no apparent side-effects.

They are not much influenced by the pleadings of parents or teachers. Leah Betts' stepmother had warned her against taking drugs. As a nurse. Mrs Betts is aware of the possible dangers, as is her husband, a retired police inspector. And their daughter may well have been conscious of the risks she was running. She was studying chemistry, hiology and psycholugy, and so was no stranger to the

effects of pharmaceuticals. This case demonstrates that Ecstasy

would catch a few people by raiding dance raves. But a clampdown would mean that the supply of Ecstasy would

Such an outcome would only make matters worse, placing young people in even greater danger from unscrupulous dealers and the adulterated drugs they supply. Suppliers would continue selling tablets that are mixed with binding agents ranging from dog-worming drugs to aquarium cleaner.

Young people such as Leah Bett need to be protected. The way to do that is to understand what they are consuming and control its quality. Ecstasy must be brought within the law. That may mean making it a substance whose use is frowned upon. but not criminalised: like smoking or parking on double yellow lines.

Such an attitude would also make it casier to ensure that when people use Ecstasy they take it in as safe circumstances as possible. Since heat stress and dehydration are important factors in a number of tragedies, clubs where people take Ecstasy would, for example, have to be properly ventilated and offer a plentiful supply of cold water.

This is the sensible, thoughtful approach to saving lives threatened by drugs. Few politicians seem willing to put such proposals forward. But if they really care about the dangers drug users like Leah Betis face, they should be courageous and speak out,

#### ANOTHER VIEW Dick van den Broek

## Why Shell should stay put

In the great wave of understandable temotion that has swept the world over the death of Ken Saro-Wiwa, it's very easy for clear thinking to be swamped by anger and recriminations. Here are some facts. First, did the "discreet diplomacy" of President Mandeta and others fail? Perhaps we should ask instead whether the worldwide protests failed. Our experience suggests that this kind of diplomacy offered the best hope for Ken Saro-Wiwa. But as wortdwide threats and protests increased, the Nigerian government position appeared to barden. As Wura Abiola, daughter of the imprisoned unofficial winner of the last Nigerian presidential election, said on Newsnight: "The regime does not react well to threats. I believe that this is the way of showing they will not listen to threats." Did the pro-testers understand the risk they were taking? Did the protest become more impor-

tant than the purpose? There have been charges of environmental devastation. But the facts of the situation have often been distorted or

There are certainly environmental problems in the area, but the World Bank confirmed that population growth, deforestation, soil erosion and overfarming are also major environmental

problems there. In fact, Shell is spending US\$100m this year alone on environmental projects and US\$20m on roads, health clinics, schools, scholarships, water schemes and

agricultural support projects to belp the people of the region.
But another problem is sabotage. In the

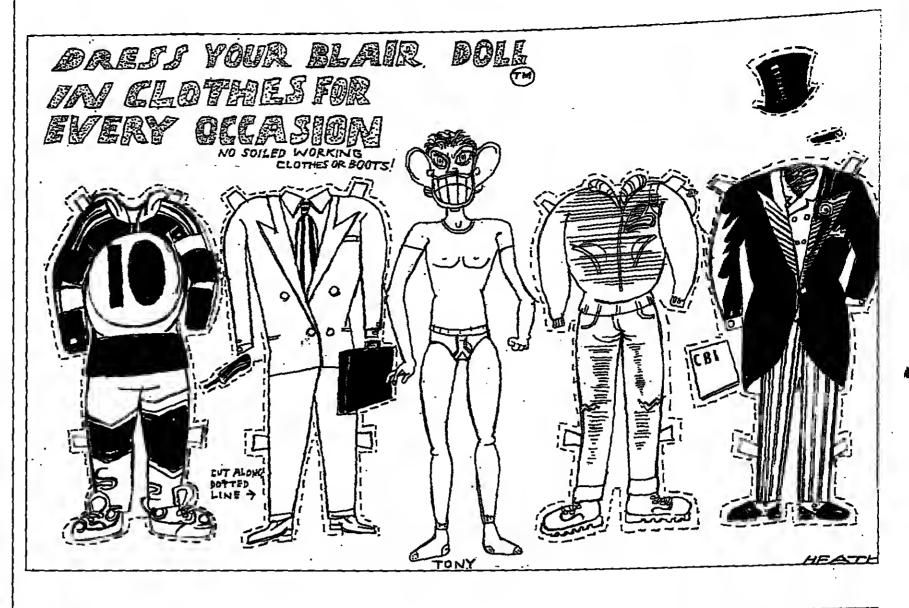
Ogoni area - where Shell has not operated since 1993 - more than 60 per cent of oil spills have been caused by sabotage. usually linked to claims for compensation. And when contractors have tried to deal with these problems, they have been forcibly denied access.

It has also been suggested that Shell should pull out of Nigeria's Liquefied Nat-ural Gas project. But let's be clear who gets hurt if the project is cancelled. Not this Nigerian government. Revenues

won't start flowing until the next century. But a cancellation would burt the thousands of Nigerians who will be working on the project and the tens of thousands more benefiting in the local econony. The environment too would suffer, with the plant expected to cut greatly the need for gas flaring in the oil industry. It is Nigeria's long-term future that will pay the price - the Nigerian government of the early 21st century which should be see-ing revenues beginning to flow from that investment, contributing to the rebuilding of the country.

It is easy enough to sit in our comfortable homes in the West, calling for sanctions against a Third World nation. But you have to be sure that knee-jerk reactions won't do more harm than good.

The writer is Shell's regional co-ordinator with responsibility for Africa.



#### - LETTERS TO THE EDITOR -

From Dr Dan Finn

Sir: Your endorsement of Gordon Brown's "tough" approach towards the young unemployed "Labour gets it right on jobs", 10 November) is misconceived, as is the shadow Chancellor's decision to undermine the overall value of his proposals by linking Labour's package to explicit new benefit

While it may help Labour win some Tory votes, the stress on sanctions sends the wrong message to the unemployed and to those working to create highquality opportunities for them. Forcing people on to programmes simply to protect their benefit payments, and where their psychological motivation will be close to zero, will not help them to get jobs. It will in fact reinforce the deep scepticism young about the purpose and value of government schemes.

Gordon Brown's package is a long way short of the "most ambitious attempt yet" to tackle youth unemployment you describe. At best it is a modest, if welcome, extension of the opportunities that already exist for those out of work.

Finally, it has been profoundly dispiriting to see senior Labour shadow ministers scoring cheap points by peddling gross stereotypes about the young unem-ployed. This has given a green

From Ms Beverley Beckett

Sir. As someone whose life has

been influenced by the writing of

Germaine Greer, I was rather

surprised to read her article ("Never glad confident Sains-

bury's again", 10 November). In it, the woman who so fiercely

championed women's rights in

The Female Euruch self-impor-

tantly declares herself, as a wage-

earner, "working woman", while

dismissively lumping all other women (presumably including

those with babies and small tod-

dlers, whom she finds so irritat-

ing for taking up the parking

spaces by the entrance, and clut-

tering it up with their special-

needs trolleys) into the category

of "fun-loving leisure shoppers"

who do nothing but obstruct her

Silly me never to have previ-ously relished shopping at Sains-bury's with my toddler as a fun

leisure activity. A previous wage-

earner, who is presently com-

mitted to caring on a full-time

on her busy way.

light to those advocating a workfare regime and has done serious damage to the hard-won credibility of many in the Labour Party who have worked to protect high-quality programmes for the unemployed Yours sincerely,

DAN FINN Stockport, Greater Manchester

From the Earl Russell Sir: If "new" Labour is to be "forced labour", it might consider using imprisonment as a sanction rather than withdrawal of benefits. Imprisonment, unlike withdrawal of benefits, is subject to the legal requirement of due process, and this would give people an opportunity to show good cause why they should not take the medicine that Gordon Brown has prescribed to them.

Imprisonment, unlike withdrawal of benefits, does not force those subjected to it to make an instant choice between starvation and crime. Perhaps Labour could also tell us why, if their new policy is so good, only the under-25s are to be allowed to benefit from it? Yours sincerely.

RUSSELL House of Lords London, SW1 10 November The writer is the Liberal Democrat spokesperson on Social

Is this post-feminism? Or is it

simply the woman who, in Sex

and Destiny, criticised the West as

a profoundly fertility-denying.

anti-child society, expressing her

own distaste and hostility towards

children's very presence in pub-

Anyway, must dash: I hear

there's a free cheese-tasting on al

Sainsbury's - or should I just stay

lic places like supermarkets?

at home?

Yours sincerely,

BEVERLEY BECKETT

Claydon, Oxfordshire

From Ms Anne Greenridge

Sir. Three cheers for Germaine

Greer for voicing opinions about Sainsbury's with which I whole-

heartedly agree. Our local Sainsbury's began

life innocently enough in the 1980s, being cautiously welcomed

by residents. But with a toe-hold

in the neighbourhood, it grew,

buying up the local car park and

adjacent bospital land until the

This once charming locality

bas now become a choked, heav-

ing traffic nightmare. Acres of

parking, signs siphoning the

shopper along a pre-ordained

whole village was Sainsbury's.

A woman's place in the supermarket

The 'tough' approach to youth unemployment | Of cabbages and future kings From Mr Don Macdonald

Sir: You are right to support Labour's proposals to cope with youth unemployment. The pro-posals are similar to the Community Programme from the Eighties, which was real job creation, with unreasonable pay levels, not necessarily at full rates, but high enough to attract both the participants themselves, the agencies in which they worked and the training agents. all of whose participation is

The proposed subsidy to private sector employers can also be a very useful boost for employment for the under-25s, particularly if training is provided and the lessons from those Workstart pilots that were successful are assimilated.

There is great benefit also in ting out the small but annoving inter-departmental restrictions, such as the 16-hour rule, by which Employment Service staff discourage young people from following training courses, as they are not available for work, while other government-funded agencies try to encourage the same young people to join in

Yours sincerely, DON MACDONALD Chief Executive Foyer Federation for Youth London, E1 10 November

route, compulsory entry through

a Sainsbury's newspaper con-

course; the customer is brain-

own-brand item in the trolley.

am sure that women with chil-

dren, and pensioners, will have

Of course, she needs a special

parking slot - as do all the other

busy working women who are members of the new mistress race.

The puzzle is why Ms Green

has to go into Sainsbury's to look

for pasta that she knows she can

only find elsewhere. But I sup-

pose that if you are quite such a

busy working woman as she is you

never have a moment to think.

Yours faithfully,

TOM TICKELL

London, N19

10 November

just the same reactions.

time left to enjoy it!

ANNE GREENRIDGE

From Mr Tom Tickell

Yours faithfully,

Orpington, Kent

From Mr George Walden Sir: In his kind report of my Booker speech in Saturday's Independent, John Walsh said I had described British culture as a "vegetating catastrophe". This is not so. What I said was that a French writer (Celine) had once described Russia in that perceptive phrase. I went on: The British do not go in for cat-

astrophes. We are content to vegetate. And as long as you vegetate you are staving off cata-

The distinction, if you are the cabbage in question, is important.
Of my attack on nostalgia, Mr
Walsh says that a return 10 the
past can be a search for meaning.
He is clearly right; not to understand that would be to overlook one of the sources of the Renaissance. He also makes an excellent point about the cramping London, SW1 effect of journalism on modern 11 November

fiction, which I wish I had included in my speech.

What I criticised specifically were the Prince of Wales's pastiche villages, nationalist politicians trying to revive long-dead enemies, costume dramas on TV, our reversion to a tired form of modernism (brilliant in its day) in art, and the sort of historical biographer who informs us excitedly

that they had sex then too.

I hope Mr Walsh agrees that
there is little new meaning to be had from such sources, which are part of the national escapism 50 evident in our politics. Perhaps that is why Virginia Bottomley looked so displeased at my speech?

Yours faithfully, GEORGE WALDEN MP for Buckingham (Con) House of Commons

From Mr Roger Bannister

Sir: Your editorial about the elec-

tion of Rodney Bickerstaffe as

general scretary of Unison dis-

#### Criticism ignores Unison's skills

From Mr Kevan Kelson Sir: Your scathing criticism of Unison (Who's afraid of Rodney?, 8 November) is wholly unjustified. To suggest that Rod-ney Bickerstaffe - and by extension Unison - is "a leader of the old school, a product of declining culture" is not borne oul by an analysis of Unison's internal organisation, its progressive aims and values or most significantly its dynamic campaigning approach at local, regional and

dead before ever placing the first This was most visibly demon-And life without Sainsbury's? strated on 27 October by the Good food is certainly to be had Public Service not Private Sleaze" national event; but perelsewhere, with very much more haps the best example of Unison's strategic approach of allying service users, community organisations and public service trade unionists is our work in Northern Ireland, where the skil-Sir: My mentally-handicapped daughter and I feel very guilty that we may contribute to delayful deployment of resources and enabling support to disenfranchised groups has led to Unison securing an influence far beyond ing Germaine Greer when she goes shopping in Sainsbury's. I

national level.

its membership size. Rodney Bickerstaffe has been instrumental in these developments and far from the union's leadership policing members on behalf of government (Labour or other), Unison will continue to campaign robustly to defend and extend public services, as well as the pay and conditions of workers employed in them.

Yours sincerely, KEVAN KELSON Branch Secretary St Helens Metropolitan Branch Unison

St Helens, Merseyside 10 November

played a lack of understanding of developments in the trade union movement. As a socialist and member of Militani Labour, 1 have come to expect attacks from the newspapers of the capitalist class (you are not that "Independent" after all). But to refer to the range of candidates in the Unison general secretary election as "lestimony to the shallowness of the

> our 1.4 million members. You apparently mean that no candidate in the election reflected John Monks' 'new thinking", by which I presume you include the opposition to strikes, and his policy of putting Tories on TUC platforms. But where is this "new thinking" now? Opposition to the pro-Tory stance was such that the first time a prominent Tory spoke on a TUC platform was the last.

union's gene pool" is an insult to

The 1994 TUC Congress met against the background of the signaiworkers' strike, and on the eve of the 1995 Congress, John Monks himself threatened the Tories with industrial militancy if they continued attacks on workers. I think it was Captain Blackadder who was forced to ask "Do you visit the planet earth mucb?", a question which is appropriate to put to your leader

Yours faithfully, ROGER BANNISTER National Executive Council Member, Unison Kirkby, Merseyside 10 November

The writer was the Campaign for

a Fighting, Democratic Unison candidate in the election for Unison general secretary.

#### Dodging his duty From Mr Edward McCabe

Sir. Colin Powell has managed to maintain a highly favourable image in the press, at home and abroad. But I think the time has come to find fault with him.

He could have done so much good. But instead of sacrificing himself, he has sacrificed the cause of the entire black com-

munity in America. Never has one man failed to do so much for

Bill Clinton has been dubbed a coward for dodging the draft, but in this instance it is the military man who is the wimp. Yours sincerely, EDWARD MCCABE West Bromwich, West Midlands 9 November

Letters should be addressed to Letters to the Editor, The Independent. One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number. (Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent co.ak) Letters may be edited for length and clarity. We regret that we are unable to acknowledge unpublished letters. Back issues of the Independent available from Historic Newspapers, 0800 906609.

#### basis for a small daughter. I was enlightened to find that, exhausted though I may be at the end of each day, I am not a working woman and certainly never in

a hurry at the supermarket.

The Zoo and BSE From Ms Alexandra Dixon Sir: Hazel Lye's letter (25 Octo-ber) asks whether animals bred by London Zoo and released into the Middle East and Africa could be contaminated with BSE. This is an issue which we take very seriously, particularly as mis-information on the subject can have long-term and damaging

consequences. The Scimitar-horned oryz sent to Tunisia in 1985 were not bred by us, although we co-ordinated the project from the British side. These animals are contained within a fenced reserve and there

is no reported evidence, 10 years later, of BSE. Of the reintroduction programmes in the Middle East, only the Arabian cryx project in Saudi Arabia received any animals from the UK. These were exactly three in 1989 - all males who were identified as important genetic stock. None of the UK animals has been released into the wild, their prog-eny are known and monitored and there has been to our certain knowledge absolutely no sign of BSE. However, because we are just as concerned as everyone else (if not more so), we decided three years ago not to export any more oryx from the UK until the 9 November

epidemiology of the disease is better understood. With regard to the gazelle releases, contrary to some of the press reports these animals were all born in Saudi Arabia to animals that had never left Saudi Arabia. This was made absolutely clear in the press release. BSE has never been found in gazelles Yours faithfully

ALEXANDRA DIXON Conservation and Consultancy The Zoological Society of London London, NW1

# Tony Blair's new moral imperative

Can the Labour leader make the right judgements on what the party's values should be?

Tony Blair lectures the readers of the right-wing Mail on Sunday about the need to "rediscover our traditional Reitist and socialist interpretation of history has returned the left to common Western values – Judaeo-Christianal Reitist and socialist interpretation of history has returned the left to common Western values – Judaeo-Christianal Reitist and socialist interpretation of history has returned the left to common Western values – Judaeo-Christiana Reitist and socialist interpretation of history has returned the left to common western values – Judaeo-Christiana Reitist and socialist interpretation of history has returned the left to common western values – Judaeo-Christiana Reitist and socialist interpretation of history has returned the left to common western values – Judaeo-Christiana Reitist and socialist interpretation of history has returned the left to common western values – Judaeo-Christiana Reitist ditional British values". Jack Straw shakes his fist at our disorderly streetsnakes his fist at our disorderly street-culture and warns that he's going to get tough on truants' parents. David Blunkett unveils plans to give alien-ated inner-city lids moral role-models. Hardly a day passes without more evi-dence of this new tone from Labour - not so much straws in the wind as whole haystacks in a hurricane.

In his biography of Blair, my colleague John Rentoul describes the Labour leader's philosophy as social moralism. Some Labour MPs and left-wing opinion-formers have ruder epithets for what they regard as a wild and worrying lurch into moral-majority populism. But it's impossible to judge Labour's new value-loaded to judge Labour's new value-loaded language without looking backwards. For it is at least arguable that Blair is returning to the origins of progressive politics, not breaking away from them. In its heyday, the socialist project

promised to swamp "bourgeois morality". Individuals were all actors in a class drama, helpless agents of History. Left-wing politicians didn't discuss the hehaviour of people, particularly poorer people; that was strictly for the priests and the reactionaries. In this way, the left found itself speaking a different language from voters. Fixated by the moral grandeur of its vision, its values and the ordinary, workaday values of the people it hoped to represent drifted steadily apart.

Now that the millenarial vision has collapsed, the whole structure of left-of-centre thought is changing, too. The disappearance of the Marx-

tian values, intermingled with liberal values. In one way, this is a harsher world; one in which there are fewer

But the idea that to use traditional moral language makes you a right-winger would have startled every pre-Marxist generation of radicals. The puritanism of early trade unionists and socialists, the high moral tone of the first generations of feminists; the cross-over between the temperance movement and socialism; the championing of thrift and hard work among the self-organised working class friendly societies; the austere Liberal moralism still present in Beveridge's hlueprints for post-1945 Britain - all these are reminders of the way in which personal morality and politics

used to mingle for the left. This doesn't mean that we are inevitably returning to Victorian val-ues because they are essential, unal-terable truths. Morality is as fluid as anything else in human society. Our codes are vastly different from those of the 19th century. They would be horrified by our sex-obsession and by our puritanism about food, tobacco and health. Tony Blair regards homophobes with the same disdain his predecessors would have reserved for homosexuals. When Enoch Powell asks, as he did in a weekend television portrait, "what's wrong with racism?" he makes a value-judgement which was near-universal in 1890, unexcep-tional in 1930 and is unacceptable

today. And so on. Each moralism has its excesses -



Columnist of the Year

He knows you cannot be a moralist who only looks downwards

moral codes always do - hut they are enormously far apart. The Victorians hid tahte-legs; we consider it polite to keep an expression of pleased interest in place as we inspect colour photo-images of human turds on display in an art gallery. Different times,

different quirks. What unites them, however, is a similar array of problems caused by technological and economic change and a similar underlying assumption that these cannot be solved by political change alone. Carlyle's "Condition of England question" is back; huge disparities of wealth, ghetto poverty, delinquency, illiteracy, addiction and violent crime stalk our country too, if not on a 19th-century scale.

A political language that didn't involve moral judgements about individual behaviour would not begin to address this. But that doesn't imply an ethical consensus, any more than it did when Gladstone was outraged about

Disraeli and vice-versa. Blair's moral language, however harshly it reverber-ates in the ears of middle-class intelligentsia, is distinctively different from

fory moral populism. It offers a choice. First, that there is still a values gap between the parties about sex and race. Politicians on the right say things. though mostly in private, about gays and about blacks, that would be taboo on the left. The left is far less ready to btame people or abuse them for things they cannot help. The only recent change is that, with Blair, the definition of what people "cannot help" is

narrowing. Second, Labour moralism claims to have no favourites - to be genuinely One Nation. There is nothing more damaging to the authority of Tory ministers than the belief that strictures about dependency or the virtue of family life are intended for you down there but not for us up here - that, to put it hrutally, morals are for losers.

Here is where Blairites need to be particularly careful. It isn't only that they need to embody some of the selfrestraint and decent austerity they speak for. It's also that their version of social morality, if it means anything, applies to some powerful forces in this

Take yesterday's encounter with the Confederation of British Industry. That the Labour leader is wooing the CBI is neither surprising nor shocking. That he is not to begin a fiscal assault on wealth-generators is mere economic realism. And that British industry itself is now studying the short-termism which the teft has criticised for so long confirms it believes that Blair will soon be in power.

But there is a hidden argument to be had between new Labour and the CBI, and both know it perfectly well. Business still gives the impression of wanting a one-way deal with government: "Tax us less, regulate us less and then leave us alone. We don't want to talk about a minimum wage or employees' rights or overwork or

To any new Labour moralist, that must be an unsustainable position. It isn't compatible with the secure, welleducated and confident "stakeholder" society which Blair wants, and in which individuals all play their part. It is an attitude that would have stran-

gled the Factory Acts at birth.

A country divided between the poor and workless and a driven, exhausted class of workers too tired to be active citizens, or to talk to their children, or to upgrade their skills after work - that is not a plausible tomorrow. One day, if Labour is to exploit the moral authority it has been painfully accumulating, it has to start saying so. For the left, going "back to basics" also means this.

I think Blair is only beginning to find his true voice, that his radical ambition is still quietly uncoiling. For he knows that you can be a moralistic reformer - indeed, throughout most of human history reform and moral passion have been inseparable. But he also knows you cannot be a moralist who only looks downwards. The proper word for that is a bully. And you cannot be a moralist who is fierce only with the powerless. That would make you a coward. And whatever Blair is, or will become, he is neither

I am poor. It is of no interest to me.

What is of interest to me is that my

art should be able to alter the lives of

a large number of people, of a whole

community, of the entire country, so that my literature has to be entirely

different. The stories that I tell must

have a different sort of purpose from

the artist in the Western world and it

is not now an ego trip, you know, it is

that art, because you do not just

depend on them to read your books.

you even have to live their life that

they can emulate. The artist in that

'I think that the entire

international

community should

# No speech like an old speech

poposed schools of thought when it comes to preparing an after-dinner speech. There is the Clement Freud school of thought and the non-Clement Freud school of thought. I earnt this when as a young man I fonlishly accepted an invitation to take part in a Cam-hridge Union debate.

There were good things in my speech but I didn't get it really right, and Clement Freud, a fellow-speaker, leant over to me afterwards and said: "If you'll take my advice, Miles, you won't bother to make up a speech every time. Just have one very good speech and always use that.

"But make sure you alter the opening and closing paragraph each time, to make it seem topical. If the start and close of a speech is geared to the actual occasion and the actual people present, then they will assume that the rest of the speech is the same, even though you delivered exactly the same stuff at Huddersfield the week before."

I was disposed to believe what Clement Freud said at the time, because I had just seen him in action at dinner. The young gentlemen of the Cam-hridge Union had taken us to eat at one of Cambridge's bet-ter hotels, and Clement Freud, during the soup course, had sent the toast back to the

"That's not what I would call melba," he said with silky danger in his voice. "Take it hack and complete the

By so doing he had upstaged all his hosts (who were obvi-ously exercising insufficient toast quality control) and all his fellow guests, who were husy chomping away at insufficiently melba-ised toast. A man who could do that

must be right about the writing of speeches, mustn't he?

Well, up to a point, Lord Copper. In my limited experience, sometimes speech material that has done well before does well again and sometimes it horrendously doesn't. More often, alas, a speech that has been specially prepared for an occasion, and which can never be used again, is the only politics, it is economics, it's every-thing, you know, and art, in that instance becomes so meaningful both to the artist and to the consumers of speech possible on that occa-sion. I have twice foolishly accepted invitations to address the Oxford Union, and on the second occasion my fellow speaker was the large, gangling actor Bernard Bresslaw, familiar to me from Carry On films. "Done this sort of thing

before?" I asked him. "Once," he told me. "I came to speak at the Oxford Union once before, and it was a disaster. You see, nobody had told me I would be making a speech. had assumed it was one of those celebrity do's where the audience asked you questions.

There are two diametrically So when it came to my turn to speak, I stood up and waited for the first question, and it never came, and I had nothing to say, and it was a nightmare. But I'm

ready this time..."

When the time came he stood up and delivered a speech of such comic intensity, so full of Shakespearean overtones. that everyone assumed it was hrilliant even though nobody (myself included) had the faintest idea what it was about. He had a standing ovation.
Whether Bresslaw ever pub-

lished his speech. I don't know. You can only do this, of course. if you are not a product of the Clement Freud school of speech-writing.

Assuming that Clement Freud actually does what he told me to do, he is in the position of an old music-hall artist who could constantly reuse his hest material as long as he didn't go on TV. Of course. speech-making doesn't go on TV. But it does get recycled as



articles. You sometimes read, at the end of pieces hy famous people who don't really have time to write articles, the line: This article is based on the text of a speech delivered to the New York Society of Orthodontists on 23 November last year", and you think, "Well, fair enough - I would rather read this as an article than have to be an orthodontist in a bow-tie

last November". But I do know of a time when Kingsley Amis achieved the opposite - he got a speech into print before he made it. I once shared a literary lunch with him at Reading, and all we had to do was talk for a dozen minutes about our new books, but when he rose he told the astonished lunchers: "Look, I didn't have time to prepare anything interesting to say today, but I have just received the galley proofs of an article I've written for next week's Times Literary Supplement, which might interest you," and he dragged a long sheaf of printer's proofs out of his pocket, which he proceeded to read at high speed to the bemused audience before sitting down at high speed and

ordering another drink.

I think it is safe to assume that Kingsley Amis had never attended the Clement Freud school of speech-writing. This column is drawn from the text of a talk delivered to the Mururoa Atoli Rotary Club.

ng u-w nd alf in-he ed

Executed Nigerian writer Ken Saro-Wiwa's final interview epitomised his 20-year campaign

# The evil at the heart of Nigeria

Nigeria consists of 300 different peoples who were put together by the British. Although the country is a federation, ever since the military came into power its people have tried to turn this federation into a unitary system. Under this system, the major ethnic groups have cheated the smaller groups because 94per cent of the GNP of Nigeria is oil, and the oil lies pre-eminently in the Niger delta which is inhabited by the small groups. Ogoni country produces oil and has produced oil since 1958, but the Ogoni people have nothing to show

I want justice for the Ogoni people. I want self-determination for the

#### 'Literature has to be combative. It must do something to transform lives'

Ogoni people. I want autonomy for the Ogoni people. This means that Ogoni political affairs will be run by Ogoni people. Ogoni economic resources will be used for the development of the Ogoni people. The Ogoni people will pay whatever they have to the federal government. They have responsibilities to keep the fed-

eration going.
Over the past 33 years, the Ogoni country has been completely destroved by the search for oil. If they have their own government, their own administration, they will be able to settle those laws and regulations that will controt the rampaging oil companies. Oil blow-outs, spillages, oil slick and general pollution accompany the search for oil.

In most cases the oil companies have an obligation to ensure that these things do not happen. Unfortunately, they have not done these things in Nigeria. Oil companies have flared gas in Nigeria for the past 33 years causing acid rain. This is an area of very heavy rainfall. Acid rain then gets back into the soil, and what used to be the bread basket of the delta has now become totally infertile. This is the worst case of pollution I have seen in any part of the world where peo-

ple have prospected for oil. In Britain, Shell produces oil, hut you look at the adverts - they are talking of keeping the valleys neat and clean so that human beings will not know that anything is going on there.



Ken Saro-Wiwa: you cannot begin to wonder whether you are going to be killed

In Ogoni, Shell pipelines are there for everyone to see. Because the government in Nigeria is colonial, as far as the ethnic minorities such as the Ogoni are concerned, the interests of Shell and of those who are running Nigeria at this time, mix. I accuse Shelt of racism because they are doing in Ogoni what they dare not do in Europe or America, where they

also prospect for oil. I am trying to mobilise opinion, particularly in the West, among shareholders of Shell, among the governments, the people of Europe, of Britain, of Germany, of France, of Italy - all those who prospect for oil, whose companies prospect for oil in Nigeria, to realise that they are ruining the environment and dehumanising the people. I believe that if the people knew what has been happening, they would do something about it and stop this robbery and murder

that is going on in hroad daylight at the end of the 20th century.

All the oil that is produced in Nigeria is bought by America and the West and Japan. If they insisted, Look, we are not going to huy this oil unless you ensure that the envi-ronment is protected, unless you ensure that rents and royalties are paid to the landlords - to the owners of the oil", it would be a different story

The profits from oil come to Britain hecause they sell the equipment. It is their technology that is keeping Nigerian oil going. It is, in fact, Western credit that is keeping Nigeria alive, so they have a moral responsibility to intervene in this situation. I have asked publicly that Nigeria be expelled from the United Nations because of its oppressive ways, because it has oppressed just too many Nigerians. The military governments of Nigeria

have sat on other Nigerians in a way that is just as evil and as bad as what s done in South Africa.

In this country writers write to entertain, they raise questions of individual existence - you know the angst of the individual - but for a Nigerian writer in my position you can't go into that. Literature has to be combative. You cannot have art for art's sake. This art must do something to transform the lives of a community, of a nation. And for that reason, literature has a different purpose altogether in that sort of society, completely differeut from here. And, you know, a writer doesn't earn money in Nigeria because although you have 100 million people, most of them cannot read and write here, so literature has a different purpose. So here I am - I have written 22 books, I have produced 150 episodes of one television pro-gramme, which everyone enjoys, but Channel 4.

disavow this genocide' society has a different rote and, to my mind, a much more worthy role than the artist in the West.

When you are asking for the rights of the people, you cannot begin to wonder whether you are going to be killed or sent to jail or whatever, Right is right and it must be fought for. I have been at it for 20 years, and at this age, at this point in my life there's really nothing to fear. I think we have seen a lot of dictators collapse in the past and these ones are going to col-

lapse as well.

I believe that the British government, that the American government, the governments of the EC - all those who buy Nigerian oil - including the Japanese, and others, are encouraging genocide in Ogoni. I think that the entire international community should come forward to disavow this process of genocide. The UN views genocide as very serious crime. The fact that the ethnic majority in Nigeria colludes in genocide does not excuse it. I appeal to the entire international community to come to the help of Ogoni now, because if nothing is done, the Ogoni people are going to be extinct in no more than 10 years.

These extracts from an interview with Ken Saro-Wiwa, the last conducted before he was executed will be shown tonight on Without Walls: The Hanged

# HAVE YOU GOT WHAT IT TAKES?

THINK [ ] CHOIR AMPLE [ ] REVEL GRAND[]DROLL 7 PIVOT [ ] VAGUE -SPACE [ ] BLESS EAGER [ ] HOVEL LOCAL [ ] MANOR

Place a letter between the words which, when substituted for the middle letter of each word either side, will create two other words. When all the letters have been found a word can be read downwards. What is the word?

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# Sir Robert Stephens

Whether Robert Stephens achieved greatness in the sense of half a century ago when the likes of Olivier, Richardson, Gielgud and Wolfit tackled the heroic parts in a stage tradition traceable to Henry Irving, or whether greatness was thrust upon him by admirers for his courage in returning to the classics in his sixties (as Falstaff and King Lear for the Royal Shakespeare Company). Stephens's do-or-die determination to be an actor in the heroic mould was never doubted in his last years.

It was as if he had cast himself among that generation of socalled hell-raising players -Richard Burton, Peter O Toole, Albert Finney, Nicol Williamson, whose talents burned so bright in the playhouse until the cinema claimed most of them except that Stephens could never claim great success in films. He would therefore prove that he at least had never turned away from the greatest test of all: the great roles in the theatre.

If he did not convince everyone of his greatness, he reminded a vounger generation of playgoers of the guis, gusto, personality and bravado necessary to heroic acting in its neyday. Nor did he neglect the sup-

posedly romantic element in that tradition of acting, which he vividly chronicles in an autobiography. Knight Errant. published a fortnight ago.

Brimful of swagger and of egocentric lancy, it charts a carecr divided boldly between artistic ambition and personal indulgence, displaying a restless energy and Don Juan assurance which sometimes leaves the reader breathless with admiration or astonishment at the auther's effrontery. The book was as if he were re-enacting the adventures of the hero of an 18thcentury novel; but at the same time it seldom reflects the kind of actor he was oo stage during most of his career until its relatively glamorous end.

Kenneth Typan had acclaimed him as the essence of the red-brick style of acting which puts hrains before breeding. George Devine was cer-tainly not looking for classical actors when he was setting up shop for the English Stage Company, at the Royal Court Theatre in the mid-1950s, for new writers for the stage. But in recruiting Stephens from the Lihrary Theatre, Maochester, he found an actor of integrity and grit who created a stir in all sorts of forgotten works as well as in Osborne's The Entertainer, Wesker's The Kitchen and, above all. Epitoph for George

Here was an anti-hero even nearer to Osborne's heart than Jimmy Porter and Stepheos acted it with all his heart. "The cleverest portrait I have seen of a certain kind of neurotic artist," declared Tynan. "Quite wonderful," said Noël Coward: Laurence Olivier made a note to have him as one of the 50 founding members of the forthcoming National Theatre

Company. With his hooded eyes, beaky oose, heavy jowl, cawing voice, and devil-may-care delight in a profession which gave him scope for being larger than life and twice as exuberant, Stephens did not win universal praise as a charmer, Nor was it in his nature to play for sympathy. Stephens was an off-beat actor,

and rather heavy-handed with it. Indeed that was obvious in Coward's somewhat heavyhanded 1959 version of Fevdeau. Look after Lulu, which had rather oddly got into the Vivien Leigh in the Madeleine Stephens oo the shoulder.

Renaud part and Stephens dashing about in his Edwardian

combinations. It was a fault, though, which he was ready enough to correct when a veteran from the pre-war Aldwych farces, Robertson Hare, suggested that be took up daily skipping. Other ungainlinesses of manner were less easy to shed.

Nevertheless, Stephens had intelligence, personality, deter-mination and technique. Even before his George Dillon had won golden opinions in London and New York he had shown himself satisfactorily versatile for the Royal Court in authors as diverse as Arthur Miller, Brecht, Wycherley, Nigel Dennis and Michael Hastings. But who could have foreseen

except perhaps Olivier - that, within five years of Dillon, Stephens would be a rising star with the National Theatre at the Old Vic in its heyday and even in line for its throne? Would he have risen so rapidly as an actor, without the good fortune of encountering oo stage within three months of his arrival at the National one of the most brilliant comediennes of the day perhaps of any day - the even

more versatile Maggie Smith? Their partnership began purely by chance casting; soon they were cast as a couple whose acting together made one and one add up to three. and in a few seasons they had become the most famous partnership in British theatre.

Although they worked apart well enough in the National's mainly classical repertoire, they made audiences look forward to seeing them together; and halfway through that glittering decade from 1963 to 1973 Olivier one day touched the dashing, Royal Court repertoire with handsome and effervescent



The gusto of heroic acting in its heyday: Stephens as King Lear, at Stratford, 1993 Photograph: Stuart Morris

Would he like to be one of Olivier's chief lieuteoants?

Could o be true? Might he as an associate director and something of a matinee idol be heading even higher up the National ladder? Here he was standing as it were in the wings of what was to be called the Royal National Theatre whose great but ageing artistic director was ailing.

If ever an actor felt greatness being thrust upon him Stephens could be forgiveo for so thinking. Married by then to one of the era's most accomplished and popular actresses - a comedienne and tragedienne who had also become a film star in The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie (in which he also appeared) Stephens was thrice hiest.

With some accuracy the partnership was compared to other, illustrious couples like the Lunts (Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne), John Clements and Kay Hammond, Laurence Olivier and Vivien Leigh; and playagers could sense across the Old Vic footlights the mutual exhilaration, verve and delight in their own teamwork.

The couple were together in Farquhar's The Recruiting Offi-cer (1963: Captain Plume and Silvia), Coward's Hay Fever (1964: Sandy Tyrell and Myra), Much Ado About Nothing (1965: Benedick and Beatrice), Far-

puhar's The Beaux' Stratagem (1970: Frances Archer and Mrs Sailen), Hedda Gabler (1970: Ellen Loevborg and Hedda) and - perhaps their most popular and poignant collaboration

– John Gielgud's West End
revival of Coward's Private Lives (1972: Elyot Chase and

Amanda Prinn).

By then, alas, Stephens had wrong-footed it with his boss Olivier ("Larry? He's all dear, darling, lovely boy until opening night, then it's just him and the audience"); and having resigned from the National realised that his marriage was drawing to a close, though not before Private Lives had been a huge success at the Queen's and then the Globe, bringing Smith another prize as best actress.

With its story of a divorced couple who meet on their honeymoons and fall in love all over again only to realise that they cannot live apart - or together, it was as if the couple were acting out their private life before the public every night. When the play crossed the Ai-lantic, Stephens did not go. He

directed a play at the Open Space, in London. He played Trigorin in The Seagull at Chichester and Greenwich, Pastor Manders in Ghosts and Claudius in Hamlet (again at Greenwich) and in the West End, a thriller, Murderer (Garrick, 1975). Meanwhile Peter Hall had taken over at the National; and, the divorce concluded, the spirits of the ebullicot Stephens sank deeper than he dared admit.

He went on acting. Oo Broadway he showed his comic mettle again as Sherlock Holmes in a revival of the William Gillette-Cooan Doyle play Sherlock Holmes, offsetting some of the frustration felt after the failure of Billy Wilder's portrait of a sexual opportunist film The Private Life of Sherlock and promising if not tactful ac-

Holmes (1969) in which he also took the title-role.

Stephens gave his Othello in Regent's Park, and in 1978 returned to the National Theatre under its new regime in Shake-speare (Oberon), Chekhov (Gayev), Ibsen (the Mayor in Brand), Congreve and as Pontius Pilate. Not a man to let selfpity overrale him, he had nowever a sociable nature and fell into bouts of dissipation and

sustained obscurity.
Towards the end of the 1980s he was invited to join the Royal Shakespeare Company. Its di-rector, Adrian Noble, had, as a schoolboy, revered Stephens's acting as the half-naked, weirdvoiced, chain-clad, god-like sov-ereign of medieval Peru in The Royal Hunt of the Sun (1964).

At Stratford-upon-Avon he played, despite spells of serious illness, Julius Caesar and Fal-staff. He won the Olivier Award as best actor for 1991 for his highly praised Falstaff, a sadder dog than usual. Two seasons later he came forward, again after serious illness, as a much-admired bot younger than usual King Lear.

Neither of them however was so much the performance of a great actor as of a once po-tentially great actor. Their challenge and the extent of his achievement served as a kind of plucky personal therapy: a be-lated call to arms, which the actor answered with a stout heart and high courage; and this year he was duly knighted in the New Year's Honours list.

Whether his racy, camedropping memoirs, Knight Er-rant, sublitled "Memoirs of a Vagaboud Actor" and written with Michael Coveney, added to any understanding of his art. they drew a zestful, entertaining

tor in the Permissive Society of 1960s and 1970s London.

They also drew eddies of indignation in certain quarters at their less than courtly man-oers, for among the actor's proud and numerous conquests of note was, apparently, the historian Lady Antonia Fraser [-] was her last bad boy." he wrote); and to the charges of bad taste and lack of chivalry he would languidly reply. "My book is certainly a precedent.

From, as it were, his deathbed, he would recreate on the page one of those legendary. hell-raising celebrants of venery and alcoholism from the postwar British theare, and whether the figure he wrote about was truly Robert Stephens or one of his even more illustrious contemporaries, or a mixture of them all, there was something undeniably heroic in his attitude

if oot his acting.

And defiant. Stephens defied, again and again, all medical augury in his last months, holding court in local pubs whenever he could get away from bospital to chat about his ideas of great acting or great actors; swaggering and (sometimes) swanking to the last, but committed to the notion that in the theatre great acting was ever rooted in the actor's personality. "If I am indeed a good actor," he wrote, "it is partly because I am not, I hope. a dull man. It is impossible for a dull man to be a good actor."

Adam Benedick

Robert Stephens, actor: born Bristol 14 July 1931; Ki 1995; married 1951 Nora Ann Simmonds (one son; marriage dis-solved 1956), 1956 Tarn Bassett (one daughter; marriage dis-solved 1967), 1967 Maggie Smith (two sons; marriage dissolved 1975), 1995 Patricia Quinn; died London 13 November 1995.

#### Jean-Louis Curtis

After the Second World War, 1 was determined to regain the Continent by hook or by crook. I arrived in Paris with my landworker's wellies stuffed with 10bob notes donated by a few less adventurous cronics. The date must have been November 1947, because the first thing I noticed was a display of the new Goncourt prizewinning novel Les Forets de la nuit by an author unknown to me, Jeao-Louis Curtis.

I was hungry for Freoch food. theatre, ballet and cinema, and did not want to waste my little store of francs on books. I started reading the book standtive account of life in a small village in occupied France. Half an hour passed and I bought it. and the author's first novel, Les Jeunes hommes (Prix Cazes. 1946), which made me Curtis's lifelong fan. After the starchy British literary diet. I was lost in admiration of this classic, spare, elegant style with its serious wil and wide-ranging diversity of themes.

Curlis was everything the British distrust in a writer. Multi-talented versatile international in cultural and social concern. Yet he adored British literature. His are the best translations of Shakespeare: while his adaptation of Carlo Goldoni's La Locandiera with its Venetian carnival galety often graced the boards of the Comédie Italienne in the Rue de la Gaité in Montparnasse. Curtis also translated modern British playwrights: his Hadri-



were big box-office hits that enabled him to devote all his time to travel, good living and

Curtis was one of the founders of the influeotial literary monthly La Table Ronde which started in 1948. The name was taken from the circular table at the Vieux Paris restaurant on the Place du Pantheon. Every Monday, a group of writers including Curtis, Jacques Laurent, François Mauriac and other like-minded traditionalists would gather to dine well and exchange scandalous gossip about fellow authors. In Bertrand de Saint Vincent's massive hiography of Jacques Laureot, Curtis makes several appearances, and gives unexpected insights into Mauriac, "that pillar of Roman Catholic respectability", throw-

giggles at his own deliciously malicious barbs directed at rivals such as André Gide, Henri de Montherlant, Marcel Jouhandeau and other homosexual writers. At the same time, these sessions were further enlivened by the fairy presence of the supernaturally skinny ballet dancer Jacques Chazot, model for Giacometti, who would perform his dazzling pirouettes and tours-en-l'air for the delectation of the ageing Mauriac. Curtis too was an admirer of the dancer, and was present at his funeral in 1993.

Curtis paid no attention whatsoever to the faddish fluctuations of "literary taste" which tended to disparage his conservatism in the latter part of his career. Born with the Russian October Revolution, he was, unlike many of his contemporaries, never deluded by the sinister papier-maché beam on the visage of Josef Stalin. Curtis was not a liberal but something better, a libertarian humanist, unusual in our cynical times, and so derided by the "socialist intelligentsia", whom he mocked in his turn in a series of "pastiches" writteo from 1981 oowards in L'Express.

In Les Forets de la nuit, he had drawn acid portraits of those who played at being members of the Resistance. (Curtis served with distinction in the French Air Force, like his friend and fellow writer Jules Roy.) In Chers corbeaux (1951) his targets were the Parisian bouring himself back in his chair geoisie who had dooe well out overcome hy uncootrollable of the Nazi occupation. In La

Parade (1960) he wrote a devastating satire on rich old provincial upper-class drones, a book that infuriated families like the Giscard d'Estaings. In Le Mauvais choix (1984) he attacked Christian bigotry. It is his only historical novel, well researched, set io the third century AD.

All this was composed with an ironic restraint the Freoch think of as "très British", but which is in fact the proud heritage of the greatest writers -Stendhal, Voltaire, Flaubert,

Yet underlying the mockery there was a true concern for France and the French as can be seen in his oovels dealing with social and humanitarian issues, that led to his being called a "pagan Bernanos". So Les Justes causes (1954) is about the liberation of Paris, and Le Jeune couple (1967) dealt with the splendours and miseries of our idiotic "consumer society".

Today in the Paris of the "Gonoourt Season", Jean-Louis Curtis, Officier de la Légioo d'Honneur et des Arts et des Lettres, Grand Prix de Littérature de l'Académie Française, is being bonoured once more by those who were his young friends and close contemporaries in those post-war years that seemed then so full of

James Kirkup

Jean-Louis Curtis, writer; born Orther, Basses-Pyrénées 22 May 1917; died Paris 11 November D. T. Hudsoo - secret agent and mining engineer - had a career of almost unexampled eodurance during the last World

"Bill" Hudsoo was horn in Kent in 1910 of South African pareots who sent him to St Andrew's College, Grahamstown, and then to the School of Mines in South Kensingtoo. There he distinguished himself as an athlete, particularly as a boxer; he used to say that he preferred fists to pistols if it came to selfdefeoce at close quarters.

He went to manage an antimony mine in the Yugoslav mountains in 1935 and prospected in the Balkans, Next year he was married to a white Russian hallerina but could not persuade her to come and live near his mine: she preferred the bright lights and they agreed to divorce. He oever remarried but remained attractive to women, many of whom delighted in his company; he is supposed to have been (like Merlin Minshall) ooe of Ian Fleming's models for James Bood.

In the autumn of 1939 he was recruited into Section D (supposedly for "Destructioo") of the British Secret Service, and in its service at Zagreb his clandestine adventures began. One of his colleagues was murdered. and Croat extremists of pro-German sympathies planted a bomb beoeath his office which nearly killed him. He already spoke fluent Serbo-Croat, and recruited a network of saboteurs to tackle Axis shipping in Dal-

matian ports; he sank an Ital-

ian ship himself in February 1941, by which time Section D had been absorbed into the

Special Operations Executive. SOE extracted him from Yugoslavia, but sent him back there in September 1941 by submarine. Julian Amery saw ashore Hudson and three Yugoslavs, with two wireless sets, one of which soon burnt out. Hudsoo's orders were to find out what was happening; and, if he could, to make all the resisters he found work together.

He met a body of guerrillas who called themselves partisans under a leader who called himself Tito; they wore red stars in their caps and he could soon see that their leadership was Communist. He met another party of guerrillas who called themselves Chemiks and came under Colonel Drazha Mihailovic of the pre-war Serb Geoeral Staff. He was the only British agent who met both Mihailovic and Tito; but he was unable to make them work together. On the contrary, he realised that they were about to embark on

a Yugoslav civil war. Mihailovic confiscated his wireless set, and he had an absolutely miserable winter, living on little beyood stinging nettles and slivovitz. Serb peasants no better fed than himself looked after him and confirmed his lifelong admiration for them as a race. All round him villages were being hurned by the Germans, who executed 100 Yugoslavs for every man they lost: so ghastly a rate of reprisal that

it put Mihailovic off active

operations for a while, though it did oot deter Tito.

Colonel D. T. Hudson

Hudson was twice captured by bandits, but escaped, Local-ly he was codenamed Marko in memory of a Serb monarch who had held out against all odds in the Middle Ages. What happened to such reports as he managed to seed out to SOE in Cairo remains unclear. SOE sent in Col S.W. Bailey, who out-ranked him, in 1942; he stayed on as political adviser in turn to Bailey and to Brigadier C.D. Armstrong, until early 1944 when he was at last withdrawn

by Dakota for a rest. His rest was brief. He was flown to London in May to brief Churchill and Edeo oo what he thought was happening on the spot. By this time, on Churchill's orders, SOE had dropped its support for Mihailovic and was backing Tito, because Tito seemed to be killing more Germans and was tarred less black



Hudson in Chetnik

Montenegro, 1942

with the brush of collaboration with the enemy.

He was promoted Colonel and briefed for a recommaissance mission into southern Poland called "Frestoo"; which the Russians forbade but which parachuted in all the same (at the fourth attempt) north of Krakow late in 1944. Within a month, the party was overrun by the Red Army and promptly ar-rested by the NKVD. They were held in atrocious conditions until the day after the Yal-12 conference was over and Poland's fate was sealed.

After the war Hudson volunteered to appear as a witness for Mihailovic, who was nut on trial in Belgrade and then executed, but was told he would be prosecuted as a war criminal if he set foot in Tito's Yugoslavia. He returned to South Africa and to mining, this time for tungsten. He sold out a tungsten mine he had discovered for so large a sum that he could spend the rest of his long life as a gentleman of leisure with a flat over Prunier's in St James's and another in Durban. He was troubled by depression, feeling that he ought to be able to do more to help his beloved Serbs; yet always remained a strong, gentle, lovable character.

M. R. D. Foot

Duane Tyrrel Hudson, secret ogent and mining engineer: born Bromley, Kent II August 1910; DSO 1942; OBE 1945; married 1936 Ada Proskurnikova (marriage dissolved); died Durban 1 November 1995

## Births, Marriages & Deaths

DEATHS

MOWAT: On 11 November, Professor Alex P. Mowat MB ChB FRCP DCH, aged 60 years, died suddenly while on a texture tour in Sontiago, Chile. Dear-by belowed husband of Ann and great-fy foved father of Adrian und Neil, and grandlather of Euan. He was Pro-lessor of Pactitatire Hepatology at King's College Hospital, London, Arrangements to be announced.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & OEATHS (Births, Adopunors, marriages, treatus, roamonas services, wedding, anniversaries. In Memoriami should be sent in writing to the Gazette Ed-itor, The Independent, I Canada Square, Ca-nary Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 or fazzed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at \$6.50 a line (VAT entra).

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS
The Durke of Edinburgh strends a ecception ledformed by a Concert of Lewish and Caristian Sacred Music at St Paul's Cathedral, London ECA.
The Printers of Whiles, Patron, Turning Print, openathe Richard Durkel Centre at Broadmon HurghIsl. Crowthern, Berleister The Durke of Glossesler opens, the Robert Beldatt Building and
storch's a dimen at Corpus Christi College. Cambridge, The Durke of Kent, President, attends a locture at the Robert Missis, President, attends a locture at the Robert Beldatt Building and
storch of the Burke of Kent, President, attends a locture at the Robert Missis Principes in President
of Council, Robert Beldatt Building and
storces of Kent, President, Nichola President
of Council, Kas & Council Meeting, London Wi. The
Duckess of Kent, President, Nich Action to Chidren, Jurea's Juria, Stationer's Hall, London ECA.
Princess Alexandra opens St Mark & Hospital Ste
is new Northwick Park Hospital Ste In Harrow,
Middless, and what the Woodland Hall Nurving
Hong, Clamp Hill, Harrow Princesse Michael of
the Blind Caristims Fine at Kensington Form
Hall, London We. ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

Changing of the Guard

#### Forthcoming

marriages Mr N. S. Booton

and Miss S. L. Taylor The engagement is announced be-tween Nigel Stanley, younger son of Mr Stanley Booton, of Saddlestreet, Dorset, and of the late Mrs Pauline Booton, and Sally Lind, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Harry Taylor, of St Peter Port, Guernsey.

Birthdays The Prince of Wales, 47; King Husseln of Jordan, 60; Sir Lawrie Barratt, chairman, Barran Developments plc, 68: Dr Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Secretary-General, United Nations, 73; Miss Margaret Courte-nay, actress, 72; Mr Quentin Crewe, writer and restaurateur, 69. Mr James Crowden, Lord-Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, 68; Mr Paul Dacre, Editor, Daily Mail, 47; Mr Thomas Dawson, former Solicitor General for Scotland, 47: The Right Rev Mgr George Hay, parish priest, 65; M Bernard Hinault, Tour de France winner, 4t; Mr Peter Katin, concert pinet, 41; Mr Peter Naun, Concert pranist, 65; Mr Mark Le Panu, General Secretary, the Society of Authors, 49; Air Marshal Sir Richard Nelson, 88; Mr Patrick Nicholls MP, 47; Mr Gunther Sachs, former botsleigh champion, 63; Mr David Shaw MP, 45; Miss Diana Skilbeck, Headmistress, the Queen's School, Chester, 53; Sir Dudley Smith MP, 69; Sir Joseph Smith, former Director, Public Health Letter, 1 Public Health Laboratory Service, 65, Sir Arthur Watts, former legal adviser. Foreign and Commonwealth Office, 64.

Anniversaries Births: Robert Fulton, steamboal pi-

oneer, 1765; Gaspare Luigi Pacifico

Spontini, composer, 1774; Sir Charles Lyell, geologist, t797; Claude-Oscar Monet, painter, 1840; Leo Hendrik Backeland, inventor of Bakelite, 1863; Pandit Jawalharlal Nehru, statesman, 1889; Sir Frederick Grant

Banting, physician, 1891; Harold Larwood, cricketer, 1904; Joseph Raymond McCarthy, US senator, 1908; Dame Elisabeth Frink, sculptor, 1930. Deaths: Justinian L. Roman emperor, 565; Alexander Nevsky, Russian ruler, 1263; Thomas Parr, "Old Part", reputedly aged 151, 1635; Nell (Eleanor) Gwynn, actress and mistress of Charles II, 1687; Gol-fried Wilhelm, Fretherr von Leibulz, philosopher, 1716; Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel, philosopher, 1831; Robert Whitehead, inventor of the torpedu, 1905; Frederick Sleigh Roberts, first Earl Roberts, field marshal, 1914; Hector Hugh Munro ("Saki"), writer, killed in action 1916; Marie Adelaide Belloc Lown-des, novelist, 1947; Robert Emmel

Sherwood, playwright, 1955; Tony Richardson, film and theatre director, 1991. On this day: one of the greatest known earthquakes in Eng-land occurred, 1318, James Bruce discovered the source of the Blue Nile. car run was held, 1896; Lieutenani Eugene Ely, US Navy, was the first man to take off in an aircraft from the deck of a ship, 1910; book tokens first went on sale, 1932; Coventry Cathedral was destroyed by enemy bombing, 1940; the aircraft carrier Ark Royal was sunk, 1941; the New first pop music chart, 1952; after a subterranean volcano erupted, a new island appeared off Iceland, 1963; colour television transmission was begun in Britain, 1969; Princess

Anne married Captain Mark Phillips,

1973. Today is the Feast Day of St

Adeotus Aribert, St Dubricius or Dyfrig, St Laurence O Toote, St

#### Nicholas Tavelic, St Peter of bonne and SI Stephen of Cuneo.

Lectures

National Gallery: Alexander Sturgis, "Ceilings (ii): Rubens. The Banqueting House Ceilings, tym.
British Museum: Joyce Fler, "Body Decoration in Africa", 1.15pm. Highgate Literary and Scientific In-stitution, London No. Shirley Hughes, "A Telling Line: Children's Book Uhistration since the 1920s", 7.45pm. Landscape Institute/RIBA, RIBA Architecture Centre, London WI: Kathryn Gustafson, "Landscaping, from Private Gardens to Public Spaces", 6.15pm.
London School of Economics, De

Gruyter Lecture: Professor Robert Legvold, "The Post-Soviet States and the Peace in Europe and East

#### Dinners

English-Speaking Union Miss Clare Francis was guest of bo nour and speaker at the annual din-ner of the English Speaking Union Cheshire branch, held yesterday evening at Chester Town Hall. The Duke of Westminster, president of the ESU Chester branch, was in the chair. Miss Joan Houghton, chairman of the branch, received the guests.

Chatham Dining Chib The Chatham Dining Club met yes-terday evening at St Ermin's Hotel, London SW1. The principal guest was Mr Jocelyn Stevens. Mr Keith Eglesion was in the chair.

Newbury, Berkshire, the actor, left

valued at £373,597 net

Wills Sir Michael Murray Hordern, of

#### Home Secretary's decision on lifer unlawful Regins v Secretary of State for Home Department, ex parte

Pierson; Queen's Bench Division (Mr Justice Turner): 10 November 1995

The Home Secretary enuld not increase the period to be served by mandatory life prisoners to satisfy the requirements of retribution and deterrence unless there were exceptional circumstances or reasons for an

Mr Justice Turner quashed the Home Secretary's decision that the applicant, a prisoner serving two concurrent sentences of life imprisonment, should serve at least 20 years to satisfy the requirements of retribution and deterrence.

The applicant was convicted of killing his parents and sentenced to two mandatory life sentences. The Home Secretary was required to inform the applicant of recommendations made by the trial judge and Lord Chief Justice of the tariff period necessary to satisfy the requirements of retribution and deterrence. The Home Secretary was not required to adopt the judicial advice but must give reasons for departing from it. The Home Secretary's policy, as stated in Parliament, was exceptionally to revise the view of the mini-

#### LAW REPORT

The judiciary recommended 15 years as the appropriate period for the applicant. In August 1993 the Home Secretary decided that the period recommended by the judiciary would have been appropriate for a single premeditated offence but that, since this was double murder, a longer

period of 20 years was necessary. The applicant responded to that decision by pointing out that the fact that the applicant had been convicted of a douhie murder would have been taken into account by the judiciary in their evaluation of the severity of the offences and that it had never heen alleged

against the applicant that what he did was premeditated. The Home Secretary reconsidered the matter. In May 1994 he accepted that it would be wrong to proceed on the ba-sis that the murders were premeditated and accepted that the two murders were part of a single incident. However his view was that 20 years was appropriate to meet the requiremum period by increasing it if ments of retribution and

deterrence for the crimes. The he concluded that the miniapplicant applied for judicial remum requirements were not

view of that decision. Edward Fitzgerald QC (Graham Withos & Co. Shrewsbury) for the applicant; David Pannick QC (Treasury Solicitor) for the Home Secretary. Mr Justice Turner said that it

was accepted that the dual factors of premeditation and two separate murders, had they been present, would have justified an increase in the tariff. The applicant submitted that in the absence of those two factors, the tariff should have beeo fixed at a lower figure than originally chosen by the Home Secretary. The purported justification of the 20year period included the two misconceptions identified. It was submitted that it was not lawfully open to the Home Secretary to fix the longer pe-

riod if no oew adverse factor had emerged. The argument that the Home Secretary's discretion was absolute was rejected. It was contrary to the thrust of the statement made to Parliament. Fairness must also come into

the exercise. There was no doubt that an exceptional circumstance, such as relevant oew information of an adverse character, would be required before the Home Secretary could make a decision to increase the period of detention that would be capable of withstanding an assault on the ground that the decision was

irrational. One of the main purposes in requiring the Home Secretary to tell mandatory life prisoners what minimum period was fixed was so that they might know how loog they should expect to serve, provided all things remained constant. If fairness was the parameter which was to govern the exercise of his discretion, it might be thought that the Home Secretary had failed to measure up

to the required standard. The two manifest errors in the Home Secretary's first decision were corrected in the second decision. There was an absence of any other changed factor which could explain what implicitly was a change of mind. What remained unexplained and inexplicable was how the Home Secretary arrived at the identical period despite the absence of the two factors agreed to be aggravating, if they had been present. Therefore the Home Secretary's decision

in 1994 must be quashed. Ying Hui Tan. Barrister

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INDEPENDENT • Tuesday 14 November 1995

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IN BRIEF

Power and water companies last night dismissed suggestions that

they had secret talks with Michael Heseltine, Deputy Prime Min-

ister, about windfall customer rebates. Of the companies said

to have met Mr Heseltine, only British Gas declined to comment. Norweb, the electricity company, and North West Water,

boost the "feel-good" factor prior to a general election.

tigation by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, he said

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police has begun an investiga-

tion into media allegations over the sale of Airbus Industrie air

Banking union challenge for Blair

petition, but a lot for the earnings of senior directors.

Inquiry into Airbus bribe allegations

Revenue up at cable phone company

70 per cent increase in subscribers. Added to similar results last

week from the other two UK-listed cable operators, TeleWest

and Nynex CableComms, the news will not be welcome at BT.

which is losing phone customers at a rate of 30,000 every three

months to competitors such as Energis, Mercury and the cable companies in particular. Cable's success has been costly: Nynex

and Telewest both saw their revenues per phone customer drop

year-on-year in the third quarter, reflecting the deep discounts they offer to BT's published rates. General Cable's average re-

turn from business telephony customers plunged 17 per cent year

Salomon Brothers, the US investment bank, confirmed that it is to stop trading European stocks through the London Stock Exchange's SEAQ International and, instead, will conduct all its European trades directly on local markets, as reported in yes-

The London Futures Exchange, Liffe, is to begin trading Euroven futures, the second largest futures contract in the world, from spring next year, Liffe yesterday signed a formal link agreement with the Tokyo international futures exchange, which will

allow Euroven trading in the European time zone.

Salomon confirms stocks move

Liffe to trade in Euroyen

terday's Independent.

Comment, page 21

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Utilities deny secret rebate talks

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BUSINESS NEWS DESK: tel 0171-293 2530 fax 0171-293 2098

# CITY & BUSINESS EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

CBI conference: Labour leader's pledge to maintain low-inflation economy wins biggest share of applause Blair earns reward for dedication to wealth

PETER RODGERS and MARY FAGAN

Tony Blair promised bis full backing yesterday for those who become wealthy through hard work, and was rewarded with a longer ovation for his speech to the CBI annual conference than Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister.

Pledging full support for a competitive, low-inflation economy, Mr Blair rejected as senseless penal rates of taxation. They are gone for good. I want a tax regime where through bard work, risk and success, people can become wealthy. Britain needs successful people in business, who can become rich by their success." His ovation lasted 55 seconds, 12 more than Mr Heseltine, who rounded off the day's session calling for relentless efforts by business

The reaction to Mr Blair from many business leaders in the ball was positive, counter-acting a careful distancing on Sunday by the CBI leadership, which has been under pressure from Tory members to take a less emollient line towards Labour, Sir Bryan Nicholson, CB1 president, said: "Tony Blair's speech was about general reassurance and not much about specifics. Michael Heseltine's speech was detailed and specific about what is happening and what is going to

to improve competitiveness.

happen." He saw this as reassurance that the Government was not going to throw away the economic gains it had made and

act imprudently.

But Sir Michael Perry, chairman of Unilever, after a hrief private word with Mr Blair out-side the meeting, described it as a serious speech that deliberately addressed the concerns of industry and sought to give hon-est answers. "To that extent it will bave won a lot of friends at the conference, and in the minds of many people it will have proved that there are serious

policies being considered."

Sir Michael said that the issues highlighted by Mr Blair were "right in the middle of the bullseye, even if people dis-agreed with his views. I think he addressed them fairly and squarely. That will give a lot of comfort to people."

Mr Blair identified key issues

on his agenda, including an end to economic boom and bust, a clear target for inflation, a tax regime to encourage investment and domestic savings, partnership in limited hut key areas between the private and public sectors, improvement of infrastructure, and Europe and the single market.

But he said that if there was one priority above all else it was education, which he described as the "passion of my government, and I mean it". He added: "Get it right and a lot else falls



Tory line: Michael Heseltine addressing conference yesterday

into place. Get it wrong and economic underperformance as well as social decay beckon."

Tackling the Social Chapter and the minimum wage, Mr Blair said: "The truth - uncomfortable for parts of the left and right - is that the minimum wage and the Social Chapter will icy, which is what neither destroy nor build a better economy". The Social Chapter will icy, which is what moment, is not or good politics.

ter was a set of principles rather than detailed legislation, and a Labour government would judge each piece of legislation on its merits. "I have no intention of agreeing to anything and everything that emerges from the EU. But an empty-chair policy, which is what we have at the moment, is not good husiness

Business would be consulted on the level at which any minimum wage would be set and how it would be implemented. Parts of business already understood that it was neitber efed out that a minimum wage had not stopped Germany or the US from being competitive.

ficient nor fair to pay people as little as possible. He also point-

Photograph: Newsteam

Heseltine attacks Britain's 'laggards'

MARY FAGAN and PETER RODGERS

Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, launebed an attack on the "self-satisfied" laggards" of British industry and called on the nation's best performers to belp pull the rest into line.

Closing the day's proceedings at the CBI. Mr Heseltine announced plans to write to the chairmen of the country's 1.000 largest companies to enlist their help in spreading best practice throughout UK

Mr Heseltine said: "There are as many British companies in the world-class league as there are German companies. Our problem comes lower down the scale where we have four times as many companies which lag badly in key respects. This long tail of underper-formers holds down the national average and blurs the excellence of the leaders in their respective fields." Adding that "it is the laggards who are most complacent about their performance, Mr Heseltine revealed plans to tackle the problem with a national benchmarking scheme to compare the best with the rest.

Mr Heseltine also sought to reassure business that the Government will not act imprudently on taxation or be deflected from its current "disciplines" in any way that could hurt industry. "We will not reach for short-term inflationary palliatives. We will not undermine your competitiveness by imposing social costs on you," he said.

He added: "We see taxes as you see taxes. Whatever they are called - windfall taxes, social taxes, non-penal taxes or even tartan taxes, they are all taxes." He said the Government wanted the most competitive regime that "prudence can ac-

Mr Heseltine also promised to continue to fight Britain's corner within the European Union and to fight for regulation and competitiveness throughout the EU.

He warned that each partner with the Union has its own agenda as well as the European agenda, adding: "Anyone who thinks you can win over the French and Germans by rolling over on your backs and waving your paws in the air has much to learn about the rules of

Peter Rodgers and Mary Fagan

#### Industry chief attacks Tory far-right 'fringe' John Redwood's Eurosceptic free packed lunch, were met questions from the floor of the unelected European president ly unsafe to assume that by the

meeting in the Birmingham Repertory Theatre next door to "frenzied fringe" by Sir Bryan Nicholson, CBI president, in his opening speech.

Mr Redwood whose meeling attracted just under 100, of wbom several dozen appeared to be media, from among the 1,000 delegates, said: "You are all very hrave to engage in a dehate at a CBI conference. Welcome to this novelty." But after speeches from the panel, invitations for comments from the delegates, who had enjoyed a

with one question from a journalist and a resounding silence conference was attacked as the from the rest of the audience.

The panel, sitting on the set of Congreve's The Way of the World, a drama of intrigue and wit, may well have aired the dissident view on Europe. But despite its hilling as widening the debate, there was a tremendous air of anti-climax about the whole event. The fringe was clearly in no frenzy.

During the morning the en-emy from Brussels bad been straining every muscle to woo

supportive of the main CBI line. Sir Leon Brittan, vice-pres-

ident of the European Com-mission, had already ridiculed Mr Redwood's argument that to join a single currency would mean interest rates and lending policies heing decided by unelected officials in Frankfurt. Sir Leon said that Britain would not become one of the provinces in a federal Europe. adding: "Nor is it that the gnomes of Frankfurt will fax the Budget straight to the Chan-

main debate were curiously will send British troops marching into battle to the strains of Beethoven's Ninth".

Sir Leon made an urgent plea for Britain not to close its options on monetary union. and rejected the suggestion that the Government should declare that it would not enter monetary union within the lifetime of the next parliament. "It is seductive but literally incredible to say that we would not really be closing off any options. I can only say once again that our partners' determination British husiness and all the cellor's office, still less that an to go ahead makes it extreme-

end of the next parliament, in 2002. EMU will still not be in existence". Niall Fitzgerald, chairman

of the CBI Europe Committee and vice-chairman of Unilever, said British business and its economic interests had been damaged by political divisions over Europe. "It is time for the UK government to demonstrate that it can he a critical but constructive force in the shaping of the EU." he told delegates.

international politics."

#### denied any talks. Powergen and National Power also denied any Head of knowledge. Whitehall sources were reported to have said that Mr Heseltine had embarked on a campaign to persuade privatised companies to offer customers up to £200 in price cuts to **Equitas** chosen Ed Sweeney, who was yesterday elected general secretary of the Banking Insurance and Finance Union, challenged Tony Blair

to intervene in the Lloyds Bank bid for the TSB. Making clear his frustration with Labour over its refusal to call for an inves-JOHN EISENHAMMER Financial Editor

"The Lloyds bid is against the interests of customers and staff Lloyd's of London has chosen and would be bad for the economy. It will do nothing for coman American, Micbael Crall, to be the chief executive of Equitas, the giant re-insurance company which is to take over liability for all the insurance

market's old policies.

Mr Crall, for the past nine years president of the Argcraft to Air Canada. The Swiss Federal Justice Department said onaut Insurance Company it had also opened an inquiry into Canadian allegations that Air-bus paid bribes into Swiss bank accounts in connection with the sale of several aircraft to Canadian companies. based in California, was selected mainly for his experience of the US market, which bas been responsible for the great majority of the old pollution and asbestosis liabilities that have brought such ruinous losses to General Cable yesterday announced sharply higher nine-month revenues from the telephone side of its business, fuelled by a

Lloyd's is facing a wave of investigations in the US by state regulators into allegations that be insurance market fraudulently misled investors by re-cruiting them when the massive risk potential of asbestosis and pollution losses was already mown to insiders.

The success of Equitas, which will take over all pre-1993 policies, allowing a "new Lloyd's" to trade forward unencumbered into the future, is essential to the insurance market's ambitious global restructuring and recov-

ery plan.
Mr Crall, 51, was selected from a shortlist of 26, Lloyd's said yesterday.

Jane Barker, formerly chief financial officer at the London Stock Exchange, is to take over as finance director of Equitas. Both appointments are to begin on 1 December, with Equitas seeking conditional approval from the Department of Trade and Industry by the end of

# BAA faces rise in cost of tunnelling collapse

RUSSELL HOTTEN

BAA, the UK airports operator, may face beavier costs over last year's collapse of a rail tunnel Bt Heathrow after ruling out legal action against Balfour Beatty. But Sir John Egan, BAA's chief executive, refused to say bow much the delays in the construction of the Heathrow Express tunnel link

would mean to the company. Insurance payouts will not over the extra costs and there had been suggestions that BAA might seek to recover money through the courts. Asked if be would go to court over the matter, Sir John

said there was "no conflict" between BAA and Balfour Beatty, the construction company building the rail link. "We are working together. It is a partnership," he said. He said BAA might not know

for another two to three years what additional costs it faced.

the timnel has now resumed, the opening of the link has been delayed by about six months to mid-1998. He stressed that, moving 125,000 passengers a even with the delay, the Heathrow Express was a "good profitable project".

There was "a good healthy gap" between the break-even cost of the Express and the return on the project BAA was expecting. The rail link, initially costed at £300m, will take travellers between the airport and Paddington station in west London.

BAA, which yesterday reported a 10.9 per cent rise in half-year profits to £294m, on revenues up 5.8 per cent to £698m, expects the Eurostar train service to take away more passengers next year.

Although passenger defections to Eurostar so far had been smaller than expected -

while talks with the insurance companies are held.

Although huilding work on amount of lost business will rise

next year. Russell Walls, finance director, said Eurotunnel was remonth from BAA's airports. He estimated that BAA passenger growth for the first half of 5.8 per cent would rise to around 7 per cent without competition from Eurotunnel. The lost business was hitting the London-Paris route, with London-Brussels services hardly affected, Mr Walls said.

BAA, which is looking to expand overseas, said it would only enter into international deals if they produced better returns than the UK operations. Friday sees the launch of Australia Pacific Airports Corporation, a venture between BAA and investors in Australia, where the UK company is hoping to huy airports being privatised.
Investment Column, page 22

## Output prices at four-year high

PAUL WALLACE **Economics Editor** 

Factory gate inflation rose to its highest for more than four years in October, but the un-derlying outlook for inflation in the manufacturing sector hrightened. Core prices charged by manufacturing rose by the smallest amount for more than a year and the prices for materials and fuel purchased by manufacturing fell for the first time since January 1994. Despite the rise in output prices to 4.6 per cent. its highest since August 1991, the Trea-

But Andrew Smith, Shadow Chief Secretary, said the factory gate prices figures should be taken as a serious warning on inflation as the Chancellor shaped his Budget.

sury said there were clear signs aging. Michael Saunders, UK economist at Salomon Brothers, said: "Weaker output price data are a key step on the road to that pressures in the pipeline from input price inflation were subsiding. Spokesmen also drew attention to the fact that the lower base rates." Although overall factory gate quarter-on-quarter annualised inflation rose from 4.5 to 4.6 per cent in October, the core index, which excludes food, beverrate of inflation in core manufacturing output had fallen from 4.8 to 4 per cent.

ages, tobacco and petroleum fell from 5 to 4.8 per cent. There was even more encouraging news with input prices. The fall in seasonally adjusted input prices of 0.3 per cent, the first for almost two years, brought the annual rate down from a revised 9.2 to 7.8 per cent.





At a time when instruments unerringly cope with Mach 2 flight data, continued improvements to the mechanical chronograph simply underscore that there's more to time than technology. A movement's intricate beauty or a hand-polished case's lustrous glean do put exchinological progress in a broader perspective.

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Telecom deal. Let us

planning to take it a

hope Michael

Heseltine isn't

stage further

When profit-sharing becomes an electoral bribe

at the highest levels, for solving the Con-Notwithstanding Michael Heseltine's robust denial yesterday, it seems that somewhere, 'Labour has already somehow, someone in authority suggested (possibly only as an aside) that the utilities might want to come to the Government's aid, shown disturbing not this time as the butt of a windfall profsigns of retreat to this its tax, but through voluntary customer recorporatist approach bates - a kind of privatised pre-election tax

giveaway.

The idea is eminently plausible for it is exactly the sort of thing the President of the Board of Trade, or his Energy Minister, Tim Eggar, might have suggested. Whether it was ever seriously put to the utilities - those contacted yesterday claim not - is anyone's guess but it is certainly not something they could even begin to consider.

Mutual back-scratching by big business and government is always a highly suspect thing; when it amounts to businesses giving a simple cash-in-band "vote Tory" electoral bribe to their customers it begins to look postively corrupt. In the terms floated, what would happen is this. Collectively, the utilities would ensure a £200 rebate to every household in the country, belping the Tories, who have no windfall profit tax plans, to a stomping great victory at the next election.

There is a precedent for this - the National Grid flotation, which involves a £50 customer rebate. The regional electricity companies didn't have to do this and indeed some of them didn't want to. With stick and carrot, Mr Eggar eventually persuaded them. But this was a rather different set of circumstances.

There are two hig drawbacks with the latest idea. The first is that there is no obvious reason wby the utilities should want to give succour to a lost cause when there is a good chance of the other side punishing them for it, regardless of their financial abil ity to cope, in 18 months' time. The other is the more principled point that baving finally escaped through privatisation the politically motivated manipulations of the state, there is no earthly reason why the utilities would want to rush back into them.

Some utilities are already voluntarily "sharing" excess profits (profits over and above those anticipated by the regulator) between customers and shareholders. Though there are drawbacks with formalising these arrangements - Ian Byatt, the water regulator believes they could act as a disincentive to efficiency - if the Govern-ment wants to go the excess profit-sharing route, it clearly has to be done through the mechanism of an independent regulator. To Alternatively, should the plan backfire and Labour win anyway, the utilities would be sufficiently weakened financially to make the Labour has already shown disturbing signs flotation.

imposition of such a tax virtually impossible. \ of retreat to this corporatist approach to economic and electoral management with its mooted British Telecom deal. Let us hope Michael Heseltine isn't planning to take it

#### Some cheer for cable investors

Telephony bas become the undisputed dri-ving force of the cable TV industry, to British Telecom's great annoyance. In the eight years before the Government allowed cable operators into the telephony market, the industry cabled only 103,000 homes. But in the four years since the rules were changed, 900,000 more homes have been added. Poor little BT is currently losing customers at an annual rate of 120,000. According to the latest industry estimates, cable could take as much as 9 per cent of the UK telecoms market by 2004, up from about 1 per cent now. By the end of the decade, there could be as many as 4 million cable telephone lines in the country.

That should provide at least some cheer to investors treading water with cable shares since the first UK issue, TeleWest, came to the London market last December. Of the three UK quoted stocks, only one, General Cable, is trading - just - at more than its issue price, and that is only because it was so radically down-scaled prior to the

With networks now much more extensive | than a year ago, and the subscriber base growing steadily, it may finally be possible to expect a return on investment. Certainly General Cable, which vesterday unveiled results for the nine months to 30 September, is showing robust growth, with two of its three units in operating profit.

It may well be that valuations which looked fancy in the extreme when first thrust apon reluctant British investors are at the point when they begin to look at least reasonable if still not exactly good value. There are a few caveats, however. The higgest source of concern is the low penetration rates achieved by the leading cahle operators. The industry average is barely over 20 per cent. Moreoever, churn rates are well in excess of 30 per cent in many franchise areas, even if better marketing and lighter credit controls are beginning to bring the figure down at the better managed

operators. There are also doubts about how successfully pay-TV can endee viewers used to quality "free" television, and how long BT will allow cable companies to continue poaching freely from them. There is a point at which BT says enough is enough and puts in train a very aggressive round of price cuts to counter the cable threat. It has not been reached yet, but it isn't far off. Still protected by regulation from the entry of BT into the broadcasting market, and aided, as well, by Oftel's tight controls on BT's pricing, the an easy one to call.

operators have a very narrow window.
On balance, however, the betting is that the UK penetration rate will rise to a more respectable 50 or even 60 per cent by the end of the decade, closer to the level achieved in the US, fuelled in part by the introduc-

tion of such services as home banking and interactive shopping. Furthermore, the number of cable companies is likely to be greatly reduced by merger and acquisition to perhaps as few as half a dozen. The resultant economies of scale will help the survivors, among which the publicly quoted operators are bount to be counted.

#### Power bids decision too close to call

With lan Lang's decision on whether to refer the PowerGen and National Power hids for regional electricity companies to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission little more than a week away. markets are working themselves up into a lather of speculation. We already know what both the electricity regulator and the director general of fair trading want, unless they have radically changed their stance after recent rebuffs. They are both in favour of referral. Apart from the DTI, so too are most government departments, with widespread scepticism of the claims being made in favour of vertical consolidation in this industry. Not

Forge drop: Overstocking triggers cutbacks by European producers, taking shine off earnings growth

# **British Steel warns of** slowdown as profits soar

TOM STEVENSON Deputy City Editor

British Steel signalled the peak of the European steel cycle yesterday, warning that a slowdown in demand in the second half could lead to a cut in production. Despite the gloomy comments from the chairman and chief executive, Brian Moffal, however, the shares edged 20 higher to close at 1590 as profits in the six months to September soured and the dividend was marked 50 per cent

Mr Moffat said: "The last quarter has seen an easing of demand due to over-stocking in a result, a number of European producers have recently announced a cutback in production to exert a steadying

ments were confirmed by figures from the French steel federation, which showed a 2.8 per cent decline in production in October compared to 12 months ago, dragging back growth for the first 10 months of the year to less than 5 per

the shine off what appeared to be excellent profits growth, showing a jump in pre-tax profits from £159m to £550m, only £28m short of the lotal for the whole of the year to March. The results were the latest improvement in the company's rapid recovery from heavy loss-

Earnings per share jumped from 6.49p to 19.3p and the interim dividend soared from 2p to 3p. Mr Moffat confirmed that

influence on prices." His com- it was British Steel's intention to pay two-thirds of the payout at the final stage, implying a to-tal dividend of 9p, compared to

last year's 7.5p.
Mr Moffat described the softening of demand in Europe. which accounts for 86 per cent of British Steel's sales, as "a blip" and said the group would The uncertain outlook took mitigate any downturn in prices by altacking other overseas markets. He added that underlying consumption of the company's products was still

"reasonably good". He said possible production cut-backs would not lead to large-scale redundancies or plant closures, but he refused to rule out job losses. Two months ago, the company shed 520 jobs after closing its seamless tube plant at Wednesfield in the

Despite the slowdown in the market, British Steel is pressing ahead with a capital expenditure programme that will cost £400m this year, including spending at the Swedish stainless steel group Avesta Sheffield, a former 49.9 per cent associate that the company now consolidates following the acquisi-tion of a further 1.1 per cent to

gain control. Mr Moffat confirmed that, although British Steel still oper-ated in a highly cyclical industry, he believed the next downturn would be less severe than other recent slumps. He thought privatisation of previously stateowned European steel manucommerical attitudes in the industry. That and a marked reduction in capacity had reduced



Brian Moffat: Softening European demand is 'a blip'

# Wells Fargo raises offer for California rival to \$10.9bn

DAVID USBORNE

Relaunching the most expensive hostile takeover bid in the history of American banking, Wells Fargo & Co vesterday increased its offer for its rival in the California market. First Interstate, by nearly \$900m to \$10.9bn.

First Interstate had rebuffed tbe original Wells Fargo bid, made on 13 October, and last week announced it had opted instead for a friendly merger with Minneapolis-based First Bank Systems worth \$10.3bn.

Either merger would represent the most expensive takeover ever between US banks.

surpassing the \$10bn price tag of the proposed Chemical Bank-Chase Manhattan comhination. It is the hostile nature of Wells Fargo's approach that has most suprised the industry, however, which until now has been used only to friendly acquisitions.

In a letter to the board of

First Interstate yesterday, Paul Hazen, chairman of Wells Fargo, said: "Our offer is superior to First Bank Systems's and we believe it is too compelling to

Simultaneously, Wells Fargo is acting in the courts to challenge provisions in the proposed takeover by First Bank

that would entail large penalties if cither side decided to pull out.
Mr Hazen also warned that First stock, more than its original of-Interstate shareholders would be solicited to vote in favour of

the revised Wells Fargo offer. Under its revised offer, Wells Fargo, America's 17th-largest bank and number two in California, would exchange roughly

fer of five-eighths of a share. If it succeeds in consuming

First Interstate, Wells Fargo, with 861 branches, could close many of the overlapping branches and cut costs by an estimated \$700m.

# £100m stake for Louis-Dreyfus

JOHN SHEPHERD

Robert Louis-Dreyfus will personally hold a £100m stake in Adidas following the flotation of the German sports company in which he fronted a management buy-in two years ago.

The flotation, the secondlargest by a German company, has been oversubscribed 11 times. The 27.3 million shares on offer have been priced at DM68 (£30,56) each, right at the top of the expected range.

which started at DM59. Adidas is valued at DM3.1bn (£1,4hn) by the flotation price. Sogedim, a company controlled by Mr Louis-Dreyfus, will retain a 30.8 per cent stake, worth £424m, in Adidas. Mr Louis-Dreyfus owns 24 per cent of Sogedim, and has agreed not to sell any more Adidas shares for

The scramble for shares was not confined to German institutions and nationals, who bought almost one-third of the shares on offer. UK institutions bought 20 per cent, and demand was beavy in America, home to two of the company's biggest ri-

vals - Nike and Reebok. Shares will be listed on the Frankfurt bourse, and they are also expected to be quoted on the SEAQ International service offered by the Stock Exchange.

A listing in Paris is also planned. Most of the money raised will be used to repay loans from venture capitalists, led by Credit Lvonnais, who funded the leveraged 1993 buy-in. The

original amounts loaned to Mr Louis-Dreyfus, a former Saatchi & Saatchi chief executive, and his co-investors, has never

been disclosed. The flotation caps an eventful few years for Adidas, which was in considerable financial trouble when it was run by Bernard Tapie, the disgraced former football manager and French politician.

Pentland Group, the UK sporting goods company that made hundreds of millions of pounds in the Eighties from an investment in Reebok, abandoned a £215m takeover hid for Adidas in 1992 when it uncovered "serious problems" after spending three months examining the books.

Adidas eventually reported a loss of DM135m for 1992 on turnover of DM2.7bn. Howevhave changed sharply since then and in 1994 sales of DM3.2bn yielded taxable profits of DM151m.

The recovery has continued. and profits in the first six months of this year from sales of football boots, footballs and other sports kit exceeded the total for the whole of 1994 al DM160m.

Adidas, best known for its football boots, recently signed a sponsorship deal with Newcastle United, current leaders of the Premier League in England. Other sponsorships have been signed with the Olympic squads for Germany, France and Great Britain.

ng u-w ii-nd alf in-he

# Thumper, Sally and Chipmunk come to market

NIGEL COPE

Thumper the bunny rabbit and Sally the scorpion are coming to market; the stock market, that is. In what must rank as one of the more unusual stock market listings of recent years. Pet City, a chain of 34 out-of-town pet shops is seeking a listing on AIM, the Alteroative Investment market for smaller companies. Dealings are expected to commence next month.

In addition to the standard fare of budgies, gerbils and guinea pigs, the warehousestyle outlets also do a nice line in iguanas, tarantulas, chipmunks and other "alteroative

A tarantula "starter kit", including glass case, thermal heated pad (and tarantula) is available at £32 99 A Chipmunk kit costs £99,99, while the more standard goldfish set is a bargain Trafalgar House sheds 450 jobs at Davy

Trafalgar House, the financial-

east and Sheffield, Yorkshire.

Stay staff are being sacked at

JOHN SHEPHERD

£9.99. "We try and make our shops fun," says Richard Northcott, the chairman. "I defy anyone to bring a child and not buy

Cals and dogs, however, are not sold. Customers are re-ferred to breeders and rehabilitation centres instead. Pet City is raising £10m from

the float which should value the company at around £50m. It aims to spend the proceeds on expansion. The group is planning lo open 300 of the 15,000 sq ft outlets by 2003 and capture a large slice of the fragmented pet shop market. The compamade operating profits of my made operating profits of £20,000 on sales of £45m in the 12 months to July but bas been spending the bulk of its profits

on opening new stores. Mr Northcott says Pet City, similar to American stores Pet-Co and Pet Mart, could become the pet equivalent of Toys R Us. Kingfisher in 1981 for £20m.



Pet City costs £32.99

'starter kit' from Photograph: Planet Earth

a "category killer" that be-comes the destination shop for pet provisions. The UK pet market is worth £3bn a year and there are around 600 independent pet shops. Pet City was founded in 1989

by Roger Pedder, now chairman of Clark's Sboes and Giles Clarke, Pet City's chief executive, who founded Majestic Wine Warehouses. Mr Northcon founded Dodge City (the DIY chain that was later renamed B&Q) which he sold to

"The pet market reminds me of the DIY market in the 1970s when there were no really hig players" he says. However, the group will have to overcome strict planning regulations on out-of-town developments if it is to reach its expansion target.

Retail analysts were withholding judgement on the chain's prospects."I suppose people might drive out of town if they can get things cheaper for their pets," one said. "But do people comparison-shop for

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gar's group annual results are

ly troubled conglomerate, is making 450 staff redundant at take up the offer. Davy International, the ill-fat-The redundancies form part ed engineering business bought in 1991. Most of the job losses are at Davy's site at Poole, Dorset, which is losing money and will be closed.

Davy has 1.250 staff employed at Poole and two other sites in Stockton in the North-

of plans by Trafalgar, which also owns the Cunard shipping line and has interests in construction, to lackle the cost base head-on. The financial cost and eventual savings of the restructuring at Davy, however, will not be disclosed until Trafal-

to 200 of the 430 staff at Poole,

although the company expects

only slightly more than 100 to

There are plans to re-locate up saw little in yesterday's annonncement to change their negative views on Trafalgar. which is 26 per cent-owned by Hongkong Land. The depressed share price eased 0.25p to 23.5p. Michael Foster, chief execu-

tive of Davy, said: "It was essential to take action to secure the future of the husiness." He added that in recent years Davy's cost base and operating structure had become inappro-

priate to the "highly compeu-

Stockton and 75 at Sheffield. released next month. Investors tive environment in which it operated". All the redundancies at Poole are full-time employees. The site principally undertakes de-

sign work for aluminium and

steel rolling mills. Current work will be transferred to Stockton. A spokesman said that competitive tendering world-wide for design work had become intense, particularly from German companies "who have been more successful than us". Davy

had not won enough work "to

# business

#### THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

#### Edited by TOM STEVENSON

# Why BAA needs to spread its wings

BAA's results underlined the need days and competition from the would give earnings of 31.5p, and o recession sets in, perhaps in 1998. for the UK airports operator to Eurostar train service took their toll. forward multiple of around 15. How often has an over-stocking spread its wings to other parts of the world. It is not that the numbers were poor, but they did show the first signs of slowdown and highlighted the increase in September.

Pre-tax profits at half-way. up worth of property disposals, as well as a higher rate of interest capitalisation, at £27m, than the market had

£698m. Innovative marketing and the costs to BAA. opening of new shopping outlets meant that income per passenger oow averages £4.10. up from £3.96. market, and a string of beauty ceotres is planned.

Passenger numbers in the first half rose 5.8 per cent, but the poor charter market for Mediterranean holiApril's passeoger growth was 11.6 per cent, but has slowed each month, ending with a 3.4 per cent

dangers of being exposed to the vagaries of one pretty mature market.

Passeoger oumbers picked up slightly in October and BAA still believes it is oo course for annual 10.9 per cent to £294m, were a shade growth of 5-6 per ceot, which looks on the low side and boosted by £9m achieveable given the 8 or 9 per cent

10 per cent dividend rise - was that Heathrow; and the collapse of the the retail division continues to grow. Heathrow Express tunnel always with revenues up 5.8 per ceot to raises concerns about additional

progress is slow. BAA has secured Perfume sales from BAA's airports management control of Indianapolis account for 20 per cent of the UK airport in the US, but hopes of taking over some of Australia's priva-tised airports are on hold while the government settles political in-

Full-year profits of about £430m

The premium reflects BAA's loogterm growth prospects, but that leaves it open to further hiccups. High eoough.

# **British Steel**

per cent to £294m, were the low side and boosted by £9m of the form of property disposals, as well a higher rate of interest capitalition, at £27m, than the market had spected.

The good news – apart from the construction of a new terminal at the construction high in less than two months.

Tempting, that is, until you look closely at the chairman Brian Moffat's statement about second-half trading and realise that, while the European steel market is not headed are moving smartly in the right difor free fall, the best that can be expected is a two-year plateau before chairman's comments is worrying. A mooths to September. After a onemanagement has persisted with a land toop since 1775 management has persisted with a

blip, laughed off by over-confident company bosses, been the precursor of a full-blooded downturn?

Plainly, we are headed for the top of the steel cycle, even if more optimistic analysts believe this time will be a long flat peak followed by a less than usually severe slump thanks to the structural changes that have accompanied the move of much of the European industry from the state to the private sector.

That is the assumption lying behind British Steel's rapid acceleration of its capital expenditure programme, which at £400m this year matches the high rates of the late 1980s. Not everyone is as confident as Mr Moffat that late 1996 will be seed as the optimum time in the cycle for the company's Tuscaloosa plant in the US to come oo stream.

It is a peculiarity of stock markets that the time to be most cautious about a share is wheo the oumbers

yield of almost 8 per cent is no good if the capital value of the shares falls even a small amount. Time to sell.

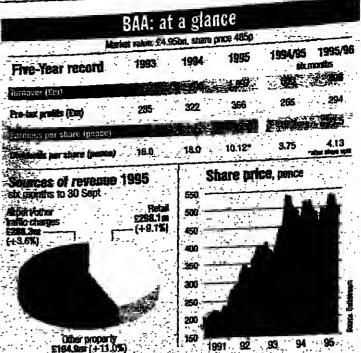
#### Sidlaw feeling the squeeze

This year's profits collapse at Sidlaw appears to vindicate those who ques-tioned management's ability to handle the £79m acquisition of Courtanlds' packaging interests two years ago. That deal doubled the size of the company, turning a small Scottish mini-conglomerate into one of Europe's top five flexible packaging

material costs and price deflation from its mainly food industry customers. The resulting pain apparent in Sidlaw's first-half results

material costs and price deflation and the £2.14m cost of the rationalisation of the Courtaulds operation. Sidlaw slumped into the red.

Despite its effect on margins, has cootinued into the second.



been squeezed between soaring raw original jute business earlier this year to rein in gearing to 62 per cent. and the £2.14m cost of the ratio-

management has persisted with a

But since then the industry has off £5.24m loss on the disposal of the after last year's £23.7m rights issue

The shares, up 7p to 155p, stand oo a prospective multiple of around 17 if profits top £8m this year. Share-holders who heeded cash calls at 275p and 180p since 1993 must hope re-

A leech could answer questions that deteat the finest minds in business. A microbe, or even a fungus, could develop a process your R & D department long ago dismissed as impossible. By using biotechnology - that's applying biology to industrial processes - companies have found better, more cost effective ways of solving industrial problems.

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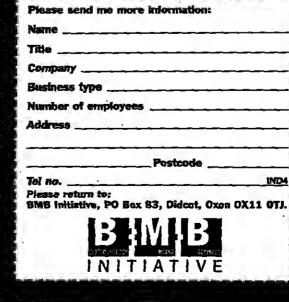
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IN BRIEF

#### Carr's Milling shares rise on results

Shares in Carr's Milling, the agriculture, milling and engineering group, jumped 15p to 300p yesterday when it announced oear-doubled profits for the year to September. Pre-tax profits leapt from £1.6m to £3m on sales up 14 per cent at £84.7m. The seveo farm machinery branches produced record profit levels and fertilizer sales were also strong. Robertsons Bakers and the Dickinsoo Coffee Houses business were both sold during the year.

#### Cranswick lifts profits to £1.46m

Cranswick, the animal feed manufacturer, increased pre-tax profits by 11 per cent to £1.46m in the six months to September. Sales were up 18 per cent to £66m. The agribusiness division performed well in the first half and a new piglet feed factory was commissioned during the summer. Rising raw material prices are being clawed back though cost efficiencies rather than higher selling prices.

#### £32m property buy by Green

Dublin-based Green Property has acquired £32m of industrial property from Standard Life in a joint venture with GE Capital. The portfolio produces £4.2m a year in rent and consists principally of five industrial estates in London.

#### House of Fraser director appointed

House of Fraser, the department store group that includes Army & Navy and Dickins & Jones, has appointed Rebecca Sharp as group merchandise director. Ms Sharp, 46, was previously senior vice-president and general merchandise manager at Neiman Marcus, the Dallas-based group of department stores.

	COMPA	NY RESULT	8	
	Tomover £	Pro-tax E	EPS	Dividend
EAA (I)	698a) (660m)	294m (265m)	21.5p (19.2p)	4.125p (3.75p)
British Steel (f)	3.81hn (2.82hn)	550m (159m)	19.26p (6.49p)	3p (2p)
Carr's Million (F)	85.8m (90.7m)	3.0m (1.8m)	29.1p (14p)	8.5p (6.2p)
Criticalny (I)	20.0m (17.2m)	2.95m (2.35m)	14.5p (12.3p)	3.5p (3p)
Cranswick (I)	66.5m (56.2m)	1.46m (1.31m)	7.2p (6.1p)	2.5p (2.45p)
Landon jednyklaj (I)	6.40m (4.39m)	1.79m (0.91m)	9.20 (8.6p)	4p (3p)
Renate (f)	87.3m (70.9m)	8.1m (4.6m)	9.6p (5.5p)	2.5p (1.2p)
Sidiew (I)	273m (262m)	-0.11m (14.7m)	-1.7p (20.2p)	11.0p (10 8p)
James Smith (I)	2.12m (1.65m)	1.51m (1.33m)	4.5p (4.1p)	1.87p (1.7p)
Istuity Care (I)	2.88m (2.01m)	0.22m (0.31m)	6.9p (14.8p)	1.5p (1.5p)
Utiliy Cable (F)	79.5m (54.5m)	5.0m (4.2m)	2.41p (1.84p)	0.39p (0.54p)
Wastle Storeys (F)	94.9m (79.8m)	7.16m (8.20m)	18.5p (23.9p)	17.250 (17.250
(F) - Final (I) - Interior	(N) - Mine months			

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# business

# Nigeria fuels prospect of a sharp fall in oil price



**ECONOMIC VIEW** 

HAMISH McRAE

Cuspension from the Com-Omonwealth is one thing; an oil embargo is something else. The first was easy and swift to accomplish for it simply required a vote, and there are few costs imposed on the other Commonwealth members. The second would also only require a vote, though at the UN rather than the Commonwealth, but to make it effective would need a high degree of agreement by all the large consumers of oil. It is a pure political judgement

whether that consensus exists. We will see, Meanwhile there is an economic judgement to be made: what impact might pos-sible sanctions against Nigeria have upon its oil exports? It matters because the outrage at Nigeria's action coincides with great tension in the oil market. Put at its simplest, the clear possibility facing the delegates at next week's Opec meeting is that the oil price might fall sharply, If that were to happen, Nigeria would one of the main

causes of the collapse. The oil story runs like this.

#### The key is how restrained Opec will be in its production

Since the last Opec meeting in June the oil price has been stuck in the \$17-\$18 range. Low US stocks and higher demand have balanced higher production from non-Opec producers. Looking ahead, consumption will creep up, but so too will non-Opec supplies. The key therefore is how restrained Opec will be in its production, and whether Iraq will disrupt the market with another

embargo-busting oil sale. In recent months two main Opec members have pumped above their quotas, Venezcula and Nigeria. (In addition Saudi Arahia has been producing more for winter storage, but this is not counted as supply until it is sold.) To hold oil prices in their present range, therefore, and their present range, therefore, and their present range. requires not just a continuation of present production, but for Venezeula and Nigeria to cut back and for Saudi Arahia to drop production as it runs down the winter stockpile.

The judgement of many oil analysts for some weeks has been that the oil price might fall out of its present trading range. out of its present trading range.
For example, writing ahead of
the executions in Nigeria, IP
Morgan in New York was warning of a 50/50 chance of just such
a fall. Its judgement has been
that without cuts by Venezuela and Nigeria the rest of Opec would increase production, however strong the rational case for bolding back supply to shore up the price. Its estimates of the supply/demand balance for Opec crude (world consumption less non-Opec pro-

duction) is shown in the charts.

If Opec next week cannot persuade its members not to cheat on their quotas, the only issue is how higher production is accomplished. A unilateral increase by the countries which have lost most market share (those who have adhered most closely to their quotas) could push prices below the \$15 point before some recovery mok place; an organised quota in-crease agreed at the meeting, on the other hand, would result in a fall to perhaps \$16 a barrel. If, looking further ahead. Iraq negotiates some deal, the price would be weaker still.

This 50/50 outlook is undoubtedly changed hy the Nigerian executions. In the long term there is the possibil-

ity, no more at this stage, of an oil embargo on Nigeria. Were that to happen, it would of course underpin the price in just the same way that Iraq's exclu-sion from the world oil market has done. In the short term, however, the hostile world reaction to the executions may encourage Nigeria to increase its production - to over-produce to an even greater extent than at present. That oil will find its way on to the world market whatever the reaction of Western consumers. Other Opec members, already angry at Nigeria. will be in little mood to ac commodate it now.

Let's accept as a starting point that JP Morgan position of a 50/50 chance of a sharp fall in the price. The balance of probability therefore seems to me to have shifted further towards a fall. The profile of that decline is hard to call, but if this argument is right it is now odds-on that the oil price will be, say, 10 per cent lower next spring than it is at present. This may well coincide with

a similar fall in commodity prices. Non-oil commodity prices reached a peak in February this year and bave come back about 5 per cent on average since then. Softer-thanexpected growth in the OECD countries will hold back prices

Some calculations by HSBC Markets suggest a further fall of 10 per cent between now and the end of next year. Even if growth does pick up, HSBC still expects some fall, and this despite a rise in demand from non-OECD

Put these trends in the oil market and the commodity markets together and the surprises seem likely to be on the downside. Result: lower world inflation next year than is currently factored into world markets.

What might upset this? There seem to be two main unknowns. First and most obvious is the reaction to the Nigerian executions. If an oil embargo were agreed and if it were supported by reasonable discipline among the other Opec members (so that they did not swiftly "use up Nigeria's quota), then it is quite hard to see the fall in the price suggested above.

But as non-Opec supply in-exorably increases and the Opec share of the market is compressed, it is equally hard to see a surge in the price sufficient to

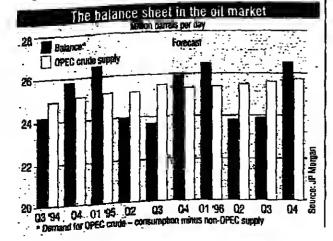
#### These trends could result in lower inflation next year

inflation. And eventually Nigeria would return to the fold, as

will some day Iraq.
The second unknown is the demand on all commodities. including oil, from rapid economic growth in East Asia,

The region is resource-poor, and there is no sign yet of growth tailing off. We are talking about at least another generation of very rapid growth before it pulls back to the 2-3 per cent growth rates of Europe and North America. So there will be a strong underlying demand for resources, which may eventually reverse the long decline in commodi-

But this is all a long way off. In the next few months the bal-ance of probability is for lower oil and commodity prices, and that equation was tilted a little further by the sad events in Nigeria last week.





Victor Obugu: Adding another prop to business interests

Simon Pincombe CITY DIARY

# Blair's trail baffles the pundits

Society of Sculptors (flogging sculpture to business) and Lambeth Council, which has

set up shop with the Britton

chief executive of Lambeth,

once the looniest left coun-

chief executive of Brixton

Challenge.
Then it was to the Royal

Society for the Protection of

Birds' butterfly conservation

project stand, (seriously, they're raising money from

cil, was braving the lion's den with Bernadette Marjoram,

Project. Heather Rabatts,

Tony Blair's royal walkabout at the Confederation of British Industry barn dance had Walworth Road watchers puzzling over the political message behind it.

Meandering around the exhibitions, the Labour leader's visit to the Rover stand (proprietor BMW) was swiftly followed by one to the Engineering Employers Fed-eration, the Department of Education and Employment British Rail's London development unit and a firm of consultants. All standard

But then came the Royal

business) before saying hello to the British American Business Council, the Volun-To the King's Road tonight for cocktails with Victor Ubogu, the rinoceros of a bon viveur, who plays rugby for England. The 16-stone forward has persuaded City Index to sponsor his sports bar, Shoeless Joe's, in return for allowing spread betting into his emporium. The financial bookmakers are particularly excited by this initiative. City Index text acreens will provide constantly updating betting prices while reveilers watch live matches on the bar's Super screen.

Mr Ubogu is inviting the touring South Africans to turn up ahead of Saturday's international against England - pres ably on the grounds that if we don't beat them on the pitch we can at least ruin them financially.

teer Reserve Forces and a brief word with Michael Perry of Unilever on the way out. Make of it what you will.

Robustly defending his con-troversial deal with BT's Sir Iain Vallance to provide public access to the information superhighway Mr Blair was rudely interrupted by the inevitable mobile telephone, which jangled into life some-

"That may be the chairnan of BT on the phone there - I hope I got this right," quipped Mr Blair.

Another myth shattered. Barings, the merchant bank that once turned down a potential employee "because his tie looked too complicated" reveals that it is not the Oxbridge enclave that has been thought. Three-quar-ters of the bank did not go to the universities, a Barings source claims, offering the clearest indication as to why the Cazenove talks failed.

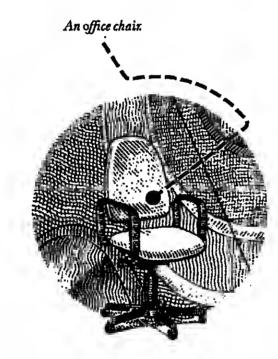
Now safely in the bosom of the Dutch, the bank intends to introduce the most efficient, low-cost settlement ystem ever. One was under the impression that it had already achieved this - they don't come much cheaper than Nick Leeson's one-man settlement system.

Much admired by executives visiting the West Coast (it has a fax machine in every room) there has neverthe been something not quite right about the Beverly Prescott Hotel. And we are not talking about the Jerry Garcia suite, which houses some of the musician's druginduced works of art. Rather it is the frequent appearance of guests who look like they have been subjected to un-

speakable violence. All can be revealed at last. According to local taxi drivers the sixth floor of the botel houses a rehabilitation wing for patients recovering from cosmetic surgery.

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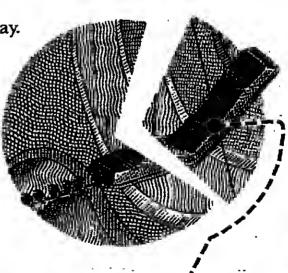
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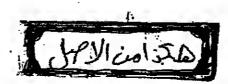


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# Talk of swoop on Woolwich leads to a run on banks

shares in late trading. Banks were one of the best-

performing sectors as the stock

market appeared to get wind

that one of the clearers was

planning to descend on Wool-

wich Building Society which.

left to its own devices, is likely

to convert to a bank.

FT-SE 1.00 3,536.8 + 13.4 FT-SE 250 3,897.3 - 5.0

FT-SE 350 1,759.2 +4.7 SEAQ VOLUME 683.9m shares, 29,962 bargains Gilts Index

94.07 + 0.13SHARE SPOTLIGHT Rumours that another big deal is being prepared sent a frisson of excitement through bank Society and the First National Finance Corporation hire purchase group.

For Bank of Scotland, which moved into Australian banking in September, Woolwich would provide the domestic retail spread it needs.

The finance and bank sectors have been on the boil for much of the year as rumours of hids have circulated. The takeover frenzy among US It is known the high street banks bas merely added to the banks are looking closely at the air of breathless excitement.

> is thought to be on the verge of selling its US banking arm for more than 12bn and Lloyds Bank has bid for TSB although some expect a counter-offer. Among fund managers

Management will soon be in the firing line with NatWest a likely predator.

their independence and there is speculation that Hambros, expected to report dismal figures together with a dividend cut tomorrow, could be the

next to fall. Abhey gained 15p to 568p: Bank of Scotland 12p to 261p: Lloyds 4 to 814p and TSB 2p

attention, up 10p to 372p. on the feeling they were oversold and the Budget could produce some relief for the deeply depressed industry.

NatWest Securities and Societé

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

MARKET REPORT

son, with the added incentive

higher at 189p following the

The FT-SE 100 index end-

ed 13.4 points to the good at

3,536.8. Shares were helped by the US decision to reschedule

Treasury auctions which should

at least postpone any debt de-

management reshuffle.

DEREK PAIN Stock market reporter of the year

Généralé Strauss Turnbull SG Warburg have surrendered made positive noises. Barratt Developments gained 10p to 218p and Berkeley 13p to 437p. Crest Nichol-

of bid speculation, jumped 14p to 60p. Redrow, firm at 125p. was rumoured to be contemplating a strike. Building materials also made headway, with Tarmac to 396p. Hambros fell 10p to 185p. Royal Insurance was anup 5p to 86p and Caradon 9p

other to attract speculation Builders also moved higher terest rate cut also contributed

fault. Whitehall figures suggesting more leeway for an in-Trading, however, was at a low ebb with deals in just five

shares swelling volume to a

emingly respectable level.

An obscure investment trust, Investors Capital Trust, accounted for approaching a third of total turnover. Almost 156 million shares were printed and 55.1 million warrants. The shares came from British Assets Trust which, as part of an investment shake-up, announced its intention a year ago to cut its controlling In-

British Assets, firm at 95p, raised £67.5m from the placing, spread among institutions and an off-shore fund. It has 39.96 per cent of Investors, up

Sp at 109p.
Other busily traded shares included Prospect Industries (4.75p); United Breweries

OIL EXPLORATION

OIL, INTEGRATED

OTHER FINANCIAL

(1.5p), Media Business (4.25p) and, once again, Black & Edg-

ington (8.5p.). With the Nigerian crisis likely to lead to higher crude oil prices Shell, managed to ignore its embarrassing involvement in the crisis state, gaining 2p to 739p. But Paterson Zo-chonis, which has about 20 per cent of its business in Nigeria,

fell 10p to 445p.
Yule Catto, the chemical group, was busily traded as employee shares became available and Astec (BSR), the Hong Kong-based electronic group, was little changed at 125p fot-lowing a London investment presentation. Next, the retailer, jumped 11p to 418p, a peak, after Credit Lyonnais

Laing said buy. Cortecs International was the best performing bio-babe, gaining 15p to a 131p high. It raised £12m, placing 10.9 million shares at 110p through Greig Middleton.

THE INDEPENDENT INDEX

FT-SE 100 INDEX HOUR BY HOUR

Nigel Wray, the entrepreneurial investor who is pumping £2.5m into Saracens rugby club, has also set his sights on Frank Usher, the fashion group. He has put together a 5.33 per cent

Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/carmings (F/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items.

Other details: xr Ex rights x Ex-dividend a Ex-all a Unlisted Securities Market a Sospended pp Partly Paid pm Nil Paid Shares.

Source: Firstat.

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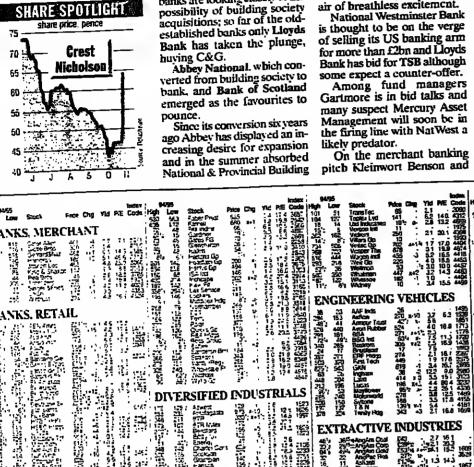
shareholding through market buying. Usher increased profits by 49 per cent to £2m last year. The shares gained 2p to 180p. Another Wray vehicle, Carlisle, held at 15.5p. It is expected to annunce a reverse takeover

TAKING STOCK

Martin Shelton, a Leedsbased diaries and calendars group, jumped 18p to 103p as David Williams, another entrepreneurial investor, took a 5 per cent stake through his Ringwood Investments. His interest comes through a placing of 250,000 shares at 80p. Shelton is expected in produce profits of £800,000 this year, np from £700,000.

> 14.00 3521.8 down 1.8 15.00 3526.2 up 2.8 16.00 3533.7 up 10.3

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MOTOR RACING: Time is running out for the country's leading driver after a bad year for the British, argues Derick Allsop

# Hill has one chance left to climb the mountain

ut of defeat, new hope and resolve; the old ethos s a pillar to lean on and no one is in greater need of support at the end of this Formula One world championship than Damon Hill.

Success at the final grand prix, in Australia, served to shore up Hill's self belief and, perhaps more importantly, his stature within the Williams-Renault team. They now have all winter to complete the restoration work.

Hill and Williams have been soundly beaten this year and the championship, as a contest, has consequently suffered. No comhination was better equipped to challenge Michael Schumacher and Benetton-Renault, but too often that potential was squandered by driver, or team,

Mutual dissatisfaction un-dermined the Hill-Williams effort. He felt they did not afford him due consideration, they gave the impression they regarded him almost unworthy of the dynasty.

The contrast with Benetton. where Schumacher was the focus of the operation, compounded Hill's frustration, yet the more he spoke about it the more resentful and resistant Williams appeared to become. Alas for the Englishman, erratic performances tended to throw his claims back into his face.

And all the time Schumacher, a smirk seemingly fixed on his face, pounded out his superiority. He won his second championship by a distance and equalled Nigel Mansell's record of nine victories in a season.

The pick was probably Spa,



where he mesmerised the field from 16th on the grid. His car control and judgment, on slick tyres, on a damp track, were the stuff of greatness.

If the destiny of the crown was determined early, Formula One consoled itself with a spectacle worthy of the name. The front of the starting grid 1996

Michael Schumache

BENETTON Gerhard Berger

MCLAREN Devid Coultherd

Johnny Herbert Jacques Villeneuve Mark Slundell saw one of the most dazzling pe-

riods in the sport for years. Overall it has been a disappointing season for the British. David Coulthard found an extra gear too late to involve himself io the championship and still paid heavily for lapses of concentration. He loses the benefit of the Williams next season, moving to McLaren-Mercedes, but at least he has a joh and time on his side. Johnny

Herbert and Mark Blundell, re-

After the Belgian grand prix, we leased by Benetton and Mc-Laren respectively, are seeking work and may never get further chances with top teams.

JORDAN

Martin Brundle

STELL LOOKING

Eddie Irvine will feel 10 points and 12th place represent an unsatisfactory return and Martin Brundle's limited programme for Ligier-Mugen inevitably consigned him to a bit part.

Alesi, who made a long-awaited breakthrough in Canada. Mika Häkkinen and Heinz-Harald Frentzen all presented, be-



Hill: year of frustration

evidence of burgeoning talent beyond these shores.

The serious injuries sustained by Häkkinen at Adelaide were also a reminder that, for all the stringent safety restraints unposed following the tragedies of last year, this remains a perilous tween the abberations, further pursuit. By and large, the reg-

the new-found confidence in the pit lane has been bolstered by the quality of the racing in the later stages of the season.

Formula One is therefore optimistic about 1996. Schumacher may be a league above the rest but he has to raise the level of performance and reliability at Ferrari to complete a hat-trick of championship wins. He embarks upon the task with a first run for the team on Thursday and continues in earnest, testing with a V10-

powered car next week. Benetton, intent on proving there is life and glory after Schumacher, have two possible contenders in Alesi and Gerhard Berger, and also get down to business next week, while McLaren, it has to be assumed. will be the stronger for not

ulations have worked well and having to change engine manufacturers this winter.

The team bound to be at the head of the field are Williams, and Hill knows he cannot afford to misdirect what might be a final shot at the title. He has the car and he now has the experience to help carry him over obstacles - actual or imagined within his camp.

One barrier will come in the shape of his new partner, Jacques Villeneuve, another ambitious tyro, but Hill has the momentum to leap clear. How soon the Great Race beck-

ons again...

Mika Hākkinen, who suffered severe head injuries in practice for Sunday's Australian Grand Prix, has been released from intensive care. He is expected to remain in hospital for another week.

# Cheltenham jumps to the defence of its new race

Racing

GREG WOOD

Cheltenham occupies such a special place in the hearts of racing's followers that it rarely suffers concerted criticism, but the course was forced on to the defensive yesterday over the new cross-country circuit which has been built - at considerable

cost - on its infield. The first race over the new obstacies, the Sporting Index Chase on Sunday, generated publicity of the worst sort, as Leagaune was destroyed after breaking his back at the bank and ditch which is the new course's centrepiece. The same barrier also proved impassable for It's A Snip, the recent winner of the grueiling Velka Pardubicka cross-country running to represent the race's race in the Czech Republic.

Yesterday, though. Peter Me-Neile, Cheltenham's marketing director, insisted that "everyone agrees that it was a straight- just one outing, particularly

1.00 Whitebonnet

2.30 Whippers Delight

**NEWTON ABBOT** 

1.30 Certain Angle 3.30 Keano 2.00 GENERAL CRACK (nap) 4.00 Graham Pride

E Left-hand, sharp, course with short run-in.

Exaccourse is north of town on A380. Newton Abbot Railway Station (served by London, Paddingson) is less than one rule away ADBOSSION: Tattersalls 58.50; Course 5-1. Laccompanied under 10s free), CAR PARE: On rails \$1.50, remainder free.

■ LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe — 91 winners from 312 runners gives a success ratio of 20.29; and a loss to a \$1 level stake of \$37.19; P J Bobbs — 41 winners, 191 runners, 10 0m, +336.20; P Nicholis — 20 winners, 83 runners, 24.1%, +536.00; J White — 15 winners, 63 runners, 24.1%, +536.00; J White — 15 winners, 63 runners, 24.1%, +536.00; J LEADING JOCKETS: R Burwoody — 47 winners, 165 rides, 28.5%, +217.95; Pe-

White — 15 winners, 69 minors, 21.2%, ≤18.14.

■ LEADING JOCKETS: R limitodely — 47 winners, 105 rides, 28.5%, +\$17.95; Peter Bobbs — 25 winners, 107 rides, 23.4%, -\$11.47; 28 Pitagerald — 29 winners, 140 rides, 13.1%, -\$9.41; 19 Bridgewater — 18 winners, 60 rides, 26.1%, -\$19.88.

WINNERS IN LANT SEVEN BAYS: None.
LONG-BESTANCE BUNNERS: Head for Heaven (1.00) has been sent 190 miles by R Houri from Lewes, East Sussext Wally's Dream (4.00) has been sent 51 miles by A P James from Kyre Green, Herefordshire and Worcestershire.

1.00 YORK-ROTARBLADES WHO SELLING HURDLE (CLASS F) 52,600 added 2m 1f Penalty Value £1,963

- 10 declared ESTITING: 3-1 Abervard, 7-2 Willichermet, 9-2 Head For Homes, 8-1 Fee Shilling, 8-1 Coletto's Choice,
Milet A Million, 10-1 Communicine Creek, 12-1 others
1994: Hamaste 5 11 5 M Rothams 5-2 IR P C Head 14

could happen at any fence, at any course, at any time. That was corroborated by all the jockeys who rode in the race, though of course it was most unfortunate."

At a time when many courses are considering even whether to persevere with water jumps on their chase circuits, it seems strange that Cheltenham, which hardly needs to raise it profile, has invested a six-figure sum in the new venture. McNeile believes that the turnout for Sunday's race - 14 runners demonstrates that there is a demand for this type of racing, which is popular throughout the rest of Europe, though it must be said that with the exception of McGregor The Third, the winner, and Docklands Express, sponsors, the quality of Sunday's

race was painfully poor. But it would be harsh to write off the new course after

3.00 Mouse Bird

forward racing injury, which since it is an organic constructenham next March will be re-could happen at any fence, at any

McNeile does not anticipate any immediate changes either to the bank or the other new obstacles. "The jockeys were very pleased with the way the fences rode," he said. "Leagaune had been over just the same sort of obstacle at Punchestown. It's just inevitable that occasionally a horse will make a mistake." For all the money and optimism, though, another fatality, albeit co-incidental, in next year's renewal of the Sporting Index Chase would probably reduce the new course to the status of

tional boundaries, but even the hurdles course has been judged unsuitable for Vintage Crop, the 1993 Melbourne Cup winner. Dermot Weld, his trainer, announced yesterday that Vintage Crop will not be campaigned over hurdles this season, adding to the disappointment of Ireland's ante-post backers fojlowing reports of a set-back to his stable-mate, Fortune And

Weld said yesterday that Fortune And Fame, fourth to Alderbrook in the Champion Hurdle last season, rapped his near-fore leg last week. "It's not that serious," Weld said, though his subsequent comments were notably guarded. "It's still very early but he has definitely not been ruled in or out of the Champion Hurdle yet." Fortune And Fame remains a 14-1 chance for the Festival with

#### WETHERBY

1\_10 Reine De La Chasse 1.40 The Minister (nb) 21.0 Moonshine Dencer 2.40 Pats Ministrel 3.10 Malawi 3.40 Magslad

EUDING GOOD.

Left-hard oval circuit. Sun-in of 200yds alightly aphill.

Recorourse is north-east of town on B1224 near junction of
ASB and A1. ADMISSION: Cath \$12 (accompanied under-10s
Ove); Tatternalis \$7; Course \$22 (OAPs \$11 (cars, including up to
four achitic \$0). CAR PARK: Pre-.

VINNEES IN LAST SEVEN DAYS: Magaind (3.40) won at Sedge Reld on Treaday.

LONG-DISTANCE BUNNEES: Two Por One (3.10) has been sent
211 miles by Miss L Russell from Milmathors, Tayside; Employitis .10) has been sent 174 miles by Bob Jones from Wickhaml

ulla	EK		
1	10	TARGET YEAR 2000 JUVENILE NOVI HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,500 added 2	CE m
	12	DAWN MISSION (17) (CD) (SP) M H Embedy 11 5 LW	yer
	122	ROYAL EXPRESSION (20) (D) Was M Reveloy 115 P No	-
		2010 TOP 8 Regreet 10 12 R 54	olo
		CENCUSA J Maries 10 12T	any.
i	6	DOZEN DIRHAM (59) J Noton 10 12	Ry
•		BMREZZLER 5 Golings 10 12 A Deb	die
•		IN GOOD FAITH J Own 10 12 IN De	yer.
		1 CONNET MADE IN W. Connetts 10 12 D. Con	-

MAJOR SHUGET M W Embets 10 12\_ \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (5 Smatch

1.40 KNARESBORDAN INVEST. 110yds (CLASS F) £5,000 added 2m 4f 110yds KNARESBOROUGH NOVICE H'CAP CHASE 

5 AGSP: DOLBRE STANDARDS (577) C Parker 7 10 9 \_\_\_ 8 Starcy 6 D5000-1 CRETIC SILVER (17) Ms 5 Starch 7 10 7 \_\_\_ Richard Quest -6 declared - e declared - SETTEME: 2-1 The Minister, 9-4 See Breaker, 5-2 Calific Silver, 5-1 My Daley, 25-1 River Red, 50-1 Double Standards

2.10 KEN HODGSON BIRTHDAY CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 2m 4f 110yds

2.40 SEBEL HOUSE GROUP CHASE (LIMITED HANDICAP) (CLASS B) £6,500 added 2m 

- 3 declared Alfairaum weight: 10:2. True nanction weight: Pats Ministrel 93; 10th,
BETTRICK Evens Pats Ministrel, 6-4 Belstone Fox, T-2 Shifton Lane 3.10 HARROGATE NOVICE CHASE (CLASS b) £5,000 added 3m 110yds

BETTING: 5-4 Two For One, 6-4 Mahmi, 9-2 La Fontalableen, 8-1 Many-3.40 INTERNATIONAL SPINAL RESEARCH NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,500 added 2m

LINGFIELD HYPERION 12.20 Beliateena 12.50 Milton 1.20 Tart 1.50 Big Bands Are Back 2.20 Itsinthepost 2.50 Sea Victor 3.20 Double Rush 3.50 Hatta Breeze

GOING: Sundard. STALLS: Im outside; remainter made.

DEAW ADVANTACE: High for 57 to 71.

Equitrack surface, left-hand, sharp undulating course.

Recourse is south-east of town on E2028 Edenbridge road.

Linguish railway sumon (served by London Victoria) actions course. ADMISSION: Members 5.12, Tantersalis 5.8; Silver Ring 8.4, CAR PARK: Cub 5.3; remainder free.

BLINEERD FIRST TIME: Studio Thirty, Ecatevros Way (12.20), Mystery Matthias, Stuaning Prospect (1.20). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: Mol Canard (2.20), WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATE Mol Canard (2.20) all areas (2.50), Duke Valentino (3.50), Port Knox (3.20) all won at Lautheid an Wednesday LONG-DISTANCE BUNNERS: Pack (12.20) has been sent 270 miles by C Parthers from Middleham, N Yorkshire: Tissue Of Lies (12.50), Shirley Sue (1.20), Italiachepout (2.20). Young (2.50) and Live Project (3.50) have been sent 270 miles by M Johnston from Middleham, N Yorkshire.

12.20 MIDDLEHAM LTD STAKES (CLASS F) 405050 D000ES POOL (RE) (28) (C) P Burgoyne 5 9 2 ... M Wighins 2 000000 GREEN GOLIGHELY (USA) (S) 0 Woon 4 9 2 ..... A Window (5) 4

011660 \$11010 THERTY (22) 0 More 3 8 13 ....

365150 YO REF-6 (21) I Flosh-Hoyes 4 8 13 \_\_\_\_\_\_ 6 Durisold 12 000-600 CTPRUS FOUNT (25) S Carnoon 4 8 11 \_\_Deep MicKeeve 6 

– 14 deciered – BETTING: 3-1 (Bullstsons, 9-2 lotel facts, 5-1 Doodles Pool, Spitifre Bridge, 7-J. Lees Pisson, 8-1 Festial Gold, 14-1 others 12.50 NEWMARKET MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) (DIV I) £4,550 added 270 1m

- 9 declared -SETTING: 3-1 Catch The Lights, 7-2 Bullpon Belle, 4-1 Sold Vicker, Mil-ton, 9-2 Tasse of Lies, 8-1 Extremely Priendly, 16-1 others

1.20 NEWMARKET MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) (DIV II) £4,550 added 2YO 1m

O CHARLE CHARGE BREE (11) R Homon 90 R Park PRESIMENCE OF (RE) N Water 90 J Stack O SOMERSIAN PRINCE (RE) 800 N Calagran 90 A Mac O STANDARD PROSPECT (USA) (20) P Colo 80 ... T Galon?

545050 MYSTERY MATTHUS (4) Mas 8 Sanders 8 9 ... S Sanders 1

O SHRILLY SUZ (25) M Advistor 8 9 ... Color Michaeler 3

O TART (17) R Johnson Houghton 8 9 ... A Michaeler 3

O TRITINA (RE) (25) S Hit 8 9 ... M Hitle 8 - 6 declared -SETTING: 5-4 Text, 6-4 Tisters, 9-2 Pressuring Ed, 8-1 Shirley Sue, 24-1 Mystery Matthias, 16-1 Charlie Chang, 25-1 others

1.50 EPSOM MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,250 added 3YO 7f

504- BIG BANDS ARE BACK (USA) (400) BHIELS O ....

" 13 decimal - " Pud's Perform Fort, " ? Pud's 9-6 GEDLLY (SEE) (17) Dr. J Scarge 9 0 ...... 

2.20 WANTAGE NURSERY HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,400 added 2YO 6F

144005 SUPREME POWER (4) W Mur 9 7 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_D Horrison 1023551 VILLAGE NUTVE (Fig 64 (D) K Curning am-Brown 9 6 (Text) 125451 MOI CAMARD (6) (CD) 8 Peace 9 0 (Te) .... P Fessey (5) 12 120-431 MORI CARRING PO (14 PA) 9 PERIOR 9 U (14 PA) 1-12-431 MORI CARRING PO (14 PA) 9 PERIOR 9 U (14 PA) 9 PERIO

14 56-556 DANCINS MCN [22] J Brager 7 12 Quien 10 - 14, declared - BETTING: 5-1 Moi Camert, 5-1 Village Native, 23-2 Times of Times, 7-1 Interchaptest, Author Fort, 8-1 Time For Tox, Boseny, 22-1 others

2.50 LAMBOURN HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,250 added 2m 3304 YOUGO (32) M Johnston 3 8 11 ..... PETTING: 7-4 See Victor, 9-4 Princety Gelt, 3-1 James, 11-2 Yougo, 14-1 Quited Dameer, 50-2 Laur Dencer

3.20 MEDDLEHAM LIMITED STAKES (CLASS F) (DIV II) £3,150 addled 1m 2f

546065 MANFUL (21) J Hetherton 3 8 11. 11 240130 BARCHS DANGSTEEK (TS) J Arroid 3 8 8 C Ruther 8
22 233230 MEMER 50 RTE (REE) (ES) D ANURYOU 3 8 8 T Quien 13
3 333000 EY HE BAY (47) C Bay 3 8 6 D D Harrison 11
- 13 declared -- 13 decimed -42: 9-2 Bekers Decigiter, Double Rush, 5-1 Fort Knox, 6-1 Lady 4ld, 8-1 Marchi, 10-1 Staffot, Hever So Rite, 12-1 others

3.50 MALTON HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,400 added 1m 213005 DIGPAST (RE) (12) (C) R O'Sulliven 5 10 0 . 606461 DUNE VALENTINO (6) (C) R Hollesheed 3 9 

265406 THE LITTLE PERSET (84) (0) A Moore 5 9 2 .... R Cochrane - 12 secrets 
BETTRIC: 4-1 Resourt, 9-2 Hatta Brezz, 5-1 Duje Valentino, 6-1 Digpast, Nr Frosty, 7-1 Komoto, 8-1 Live Project, 10-1 others.

#### Gifford and Johnson bank on the rain

First National Bank Gold Cup at Ascot on Saturday.

to go for three weeks, but I won't make a final decision until Thursterday: "She'll run if it rains, but an Maguire is booked to ride.

Sound Man, who was narrowly beaten in the Arkle Chasc at the Festival, is the Irish hope for the race and although his slightly less concerned with the ground, he will still take the precaution of travelling to Ascot on Friday to walk the course before confirming his horse as a definite participant.

#### RACING RESULTS LEICESTER

1.00: 1. 1A MENORQUINA () A McCarthy) 9-1; 2. Rhual Bid 10-1; 3. Delgarth Lady 14-1, 32 man. 4-5 (sw Bellin). 2. 1½. (D Marks, Lambourn). Teste: £7.90; £1.50, £3.80, £3.10. DF: £121.00. CSF; £88.25. Tho: £88.30.

1.30: 1. SOUI. TRADER (G Hogan) 8-1; 2. Cavina Evens tav; 3. Sati By The Starts 9-2, 6 ran, M. 2½, (N Babbage, Chetretham). Totas £11.90; £3.70, £1.10. DF: £9.20. CSF; £16.36.

2.00: 1. CREENWAY LADY (J Rven) 20 1: 2. High Rown 4-1 (av. 3. Johne's Fiddle 12-1. 17 ran. 13/4, 4. IC Allen, Newmarket). Tota: £25.90; £4.30. £1.80, £3.70. DF: £212.10. CSF: £97.53. Tho: not

2.30: 1. MMMY O'DEA (/ Raiton) 13-8; 2. Change The Reign 8-11 fav; 3. Carling-ford Belle 7-1. 2 mm. 1/4, 30. // Ball, Ash-by-ce-la-Zouch), Tota: £2.50, DF: £1.50. CSP. £3.73.

3.00: 1. PEATSWOOD (A Thornton) 7-2: 2. No Light 3-1: 3. Shiriey's Train 7-4 fav. 5 ran. 4, 3. tM Channon, Lipper Lambourn), Totac £6.50; £2.70, £1.70, DF: £6.50. CSF: £12.99.

3.30: 1. NAHRI (T Eley) 9-4 fav. 2. New L.n 3-1: 3. hvy Edith 15-2, 7 ran. 7, 5. () Mackle, Church Broughton, Tota: £3.10: £2.10, £2.70, DF: £5.30, CSF: £9.41. 12.10, 22.70, 01: 15,30, 051: 15.41,

PLUMPTON 1.10: 1. OMBDJOY (C Rae) 13-8 fav; 2. Credit Controller 16-1; 3. Commanchero 9-4. 6 ran. 2½, det. U Jenians, Royston. There was no bid for the winner. 1.40: 1, LUCKY AGAIM (T Descorate) B-2; 2, Victory Arthem 9-2; 3, Paper Star ans fav. 4 ran. 20, 2; (C Popham, Taunton), Total: £5.40. DF: £11.40. CSF: £18.45. Only three finished; revised penalty volve £3,800.

2.10: 1. WALKING TALL (A P McCoyl 4-1: 2. Cool Spot 9-2; 3. Fresh Choice 7-4 fav. 8 ram. 10, 15. (T Lingovern, Narwards Health, Toter £5,20; £1.50, £1.50, £1.30 DF: £1.270. CSF £21.17. 2.40: 1, CYRLL HENRY IC Moude; 9-4 th 2. Public Serve 1-1; 3. Handstone

n faz, 2. Driving Force 6-1; 3. Handsome Ned 7-2.6 ran, 9-4 n faz Dawn Change (4th). 4, 14. (Sumon Earle, Stummister Newton).

NAP: Magslad (3.40, Wetherby) NB: Catch The Lights (12.50, Lingfield)

Tota: £3.60; £1.80, £2.10, DF: £13.40, CSF: £14.11. 3.10: 1. TRICKSOME UF Titley) 15-8; 2. Masster Hunter Evens fav. 3 ran. Det. (Miss H Kright, Waringer, Tote: £2.40. CF: £2.10. CF: £3.60. NR: Queens Contractor, Only two finished; revised penalty value £2,709. 3.40: 1. TIGHT FIST U F Tidey: 5-4 fav. 2. Hoyar (Mas H Knight, Wartage), Total £2.50; £1.10, £1.50, £1.20, DF: £5.00, CSF: £4.85. Quadpot: £19.40. Placepot: £361.70. Place 6: £135.42. Place 5: £57.49.

WOLVERHAMPTON

.50: 1. LA PETITE FUSEE (R Hughes) 1-2 fav. 2. Bogart 20-1; 3. Send Star 20-1; 12 ran. 4, 7., 18 O'Suñann, Tober £1.20; £1.10, £6.90, £3.30. DF: £16.20. CSF; £14.24, Tho: £119.00. 2.20: 1. CASHMERE LADY (R Lapport 5-2 tay, 2. Dannistar 25-1; 3. Diemond Market 14-1, 13 ran. 4, 2-5. U Syret. Tota: 12.50; £1.20, £3.30, £2.80. DF: £33.00. CSF: £49.26. Tre: £118.20.

2.50; 1. WORLDWIDE ELSIE (A Mackay) 6-4 (av. 2. Polar Spirit 13-8; 3. Homefand 11-2, 8 ran. 12, 6, (R Harrey, Tota; £2.30; £1.80, £1.10, OF; £1.80, CSF; £3.91. 3.20: L CHARDMANS CHOICE (Taus) 10-1; 2. Ocean Park, 13-2; 3. Sudden Spin 7-2 tov. 12 ran. 3/4, 7. (A lawts). Tota: £14.90; £3.70. £2.50. £2.40. DF: £32.10. CSF: £51.75. Treast: £221.42. Tro: £37.20. NR:

3.50: 1 FRANCES MARY U Tatel 7-2 pt 3.50: 1. FRANCES MARY (J Intel 7-2 pl far; 2. Trieddedown 14-1: 3. Effection 33-1, 13 ran. 7-2 pl fav. Takepuna. 27/2, 1/5. pc Farmurst). Tota: 52.90: 52.20; 64.50, 55.60. DF: 552.30. CSF: 647.62. Tho: 5248.80 (part wor; pool of £245.31 carned lorward to Newton Abbot 2.00 today). 4.20: 1. OPERA BUFF (A Whetan) 3.1 co fev. 2. Heighth of Feroe 20-1; 3. His Ferra Denoer 16-1, 12 ran. 3-1 co fav Instarta-reous. 10, hd. Miss Gay Kelleway). Totae: 13,40; 52.50, 18.30, 13.20. DF: 6125.90. CSF: 659.87. Theas: CF87.67. Tho: 5296.10 (SF: 659.87. Theas: CF87.67. Tho: 5296.10

4.50: 1. CENTAIN WAY (T les) 12: 1; 2. Ilgeare Boy 9-2; 3. Exclusive Assombly 5-1. 12 ran. 11-4 tov Distant Princess. Nr. 2. (N Littmoden). Tate: £13.50; £3.20, £1.50; £3.10. DF: £52.80. CSF: £83.78. Tho: £81.40. 5-20: 1. BENJAMENS LAW (R Lappru 16-1; 2. Rood Music 13-8 tay; 3. Calder Ring 9-1: 13 ran. Hd, 12-0 Pickerng). Tota: 511.20: 52-40, £1-60, £2-40, £9: £12-60. CSF: £40.40. Treas: £216.37. Tre: £138.60. Jackpot: £5,911.40. Quadpot: £48.30 part were pool of £39,24 carried forward to

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Newton About todays. Placepot: £49.00. Place 6: £38.48. Place 5: £26.26. \*THE INDEPENDENT Horse Racing

Results 0839 - 111 171 Commentary 0839 - 111 175 Source. Bready specific place 071, 400 9060 Calls charged it 30p per min charp tops. 30p per title st all other times.



# Branchjetstal Buck. It inner of the second of his two starts in Insh point-to-points, made a new many start over terces when saying on to wear down Dandle into over the course and winning start over terces when saying on to wear down Dandle into over the course and winning start over terces when saying on to wear down Dandle into the even happer with contained in Settlember The grey will come on for the run and should be even happer with contained in Settlember The grey will come down at the fifth usa. Certain Angle was just structured at the CERTAIN ANGLE had come good hurdles from last season and was structured in the bearing on the strength of some good hurdles from last season and was proteomed in the bearing on the strength of some good hurdles from last season and was proteomed in the bearing on the strength of some good hurdles from last season and was proteomed in the bearing on the strength of some good hurdles from last season and was proteomed in the bearing the transmission of the strength of the structure of the strength of the structure 200 WILLIAM HILL HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) £8,000 added 2m of Penalty Value £5,810 251-1-3 CLIFTON SET (25) (G) Mrs Crussine Fernoni C Marin 4 11 12 27321-0 MUSICAL MONARCH (10) (G) (So Valiants) O Shenood 9 11 5 ...... 27325-5 LANSDONNE (25) (D) (R F Dermach) G Ham 7 11 5 R Mastey (5) 12400 LANDED GENTRY (10) :: W feel & Son Ltd) C Broad 6 11 2. LANDED GENTRY (10) % W Feel 6 Son Ltd) C Broad 6 11 2. 2021 AMERICANER (285) (C) (Mis GE Wilman) 8 Militaria 8 11 2. 2021 GENERAL CRACK (10) (Paul Is Brobs) (P Northolis 6 10 13. 1221 CLEVER REGIARY (38) Als Ian Smith N Twentholises 6 10 12. 1221 Super Regiard (38) Als Ian Smith N Twentholises 6 10 12. 1222 Militaria (38) Als Ian Smith N Twentholises 6 10 12. 1223 Militaria (38) Als Ian Smith N Twentholises 6 10 12. 1224 Super Regiard (38) Als Ian Smith N Twentholises 6 10 12. 1224 Super Regiard (38) Als Ian Smith N Twentholises 6 10 12. 1225 Super Regiard (18) Als Ian Smith N Twentholises 6 10 12. 1225 Super Regiard (18) Als Ian Smith N Twentholises 6 10 12. 1226 Super Regiard (18) Als Ian Smith N Twentholises 6 10 12. 1227 Super Regiard (18) Als Ian Smith N Twentholises 6 10 12. 1227 Super Regiard (18) Als Ian Smith N Twentholises 6 10 12. 1227 Super Regiard (18) Als Ian Smith N Twentholises 6 10 12. 1227 Super Regiard (18) Als Ian Smith N Twentholises 6 10 12. 1228 Super Regiard (18) Als Ian Smith N Twentholises 6 10 12. 1228 Super Regiard (18) Als Ian Smith N Twentholises 6 10 12. 1229 Super Regiard (18) Als Ian Smith N Twentholises 6 10 12. 1229 Super Regiard (18) Als Ian Smith N Twentholises 6 10 12. 1229 Super Regiard (18) Als Ian Smith N Twentholises 6 10 12. 1229 Super Regiard (18) Als Ian Smith N Twentholises 6 10 12. 1220 Super Regiard (18) Als Ian Smith N Twentholises 6 10 12. 1220 Super Regiard (18) Als Ian Smith N Twentholises 6 10 12. 1220 Super Regiard (18) Als Ian Smith N Twentholises 6 10 12. 1220 Super Regiard (18) Als Ian Smith N Twentholises 6 10 12. 1220 Super Regiard (18) Als Ian Smith N Twentholises 6 10 12. 1220 Super Regiard (18) Als Ian Smith N Twentholises 6 10 12. 1220 Super Regiard (18) Als Ian Smith N Twentholises 6 10 12. 1220 Super Regiard (18) Als Ian Smith N Twentholises 6 10 12. 1220 Super Regiard (18) Als Ian Smith N Twentholises 6 10 12. 1220 Super Regiard (18) Als Ian Smith N Twentholises 6 10 12. 1220 Super Regiard (18) Als Ian Smith N Twen 25 declared 15 declared 16 dec There elevate the a difference in performance from a lot of these now the ground has changed and elevations and inspirer man when last of five behind Great Marquess, Jamb and Lansboomer in a discharge man when last of five behind Great Marquess, Jamb and Lansboomer in a land last spire in the month on his reappearance, it was better Coffon Set on a lacely surface at Newdony last month on his reappearance, it was better than in Section and the charge the larger until a mustake at the third last spelt the best than in Section and the charge the larger until a mustake at the third last spelt the best than in Section and the charge the larger until a mustake at the third last spelt the



prove with age. Most of the obstacles, and the laurel hushes which have been planted to mark out the course, are still growing, and will not mature fully for several years. Racing. meanwhile, is far too conservative to accept any new concept in less than a decade and a half.

an ornamental garden. The Festival meeting at Chel-William Hill.

ginning of the end. That was his first run since Amtine, where he was over the top, in early April and will have brought him on. Limiteth and Limiteth Georgy are also at their best on early ground, General Creach was not regim last season and returned to land 9 not touch in the nower hardle over two and is half miles on that Chepsion card, Leading four out, he was not hard pressed to keep Mahood Castle at bay and there is more than a fair chance he could be ahead of the handrapper.

Selection: LANSDOWNE.

2	2.30	110yds Penelty Value £4,586	Haded ZR
	24F11P-	HIGH ALLTRUDE (239) (II) (F J Sansbury) M Hoston-Eller 7 12 D.	B Porel
	312335-	NORTHERN SADDLER (213) (ON (Richard J Engral & Hodges 8 12 0	R Destrooty
	F213LD-	WHETPERS DELICATE CLOSE (D) IS P Tincol G Charles-Jones 7 11 9	W McFarland
	1255/36	LITTLE TON (199) (D) Dank O'Correct J King 10 11 9	C Uptoo
	1221-32	DEAR DO (15) (D) (SF) (C ) Etheros) N Henderson 8 10 8	A Programate
		EVENDAD BANK (17) (CD) (The Guider's Erzerstrivers Ltd) R Hodges 9 10 1	
		PRODERT PERCY (84) (C) DAS J McCorrect) R Foot 8 10 6	

OCPO/A WATERFORD CASTLE (SE7) (D) (Syb) Legy Joseph K Belley \$ 10.2 \_\_\_\_ BETTRICE 9-4 Waterford Castle, 13-4 Door Do, 4-1 Whitpers Delight, 5-1 High Albitade, 6-1 North-

WIBIPPERS DELIGIT, a game front-runner over hundles and a winner first time out lest tarm, made a successful, if shaley, transition to forces helfway through the season. The fact that he comes to hand early should give him an advantage over some of these and there is likely to be improvement in him given the fow races he fixe had over forces. Notethern Saddles is a game sort who loves the ground, five wint two seasons ago were followed by these more lest term. But he does seem vulnerable first time out and he is certain to improve on whether the seasons are the seasons of the seasons

3.00 SOUTH WEST RACING CLUB NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,500 added 2m 1f Penelty Value £2,948

O ALLOW (18) (Ms M Libertly O B Libertly O 4 11 0.

QUP BURNINGTON SAM (13) O H Barrel D Barrel 7 11 0.

5222-5F CASPIAN BELLION (5) (I. ) Howlengs S Weget 7 11 0.

CHANCE OR LA VE GROUP (Ms Core) Horize Mes Choice 6 11 0.

MISSIED MARTIN (E T Weyl P Rectard Warrel 10 11 0.

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user Bird, 5-1 Pail Quiver, 7-1 Coopies Beingle, 5-1 Berlington Surs, 16-1 Dock FORM GUIDE

WHITESONNET, obsepointing last season after running Stoney Valley to a length and a charter in 2 non-select set Plumpton in January, looked the likely winner of a selling hand-cap turning for home until Supermick swept by from the second last over the course and cap turning for home until Supermick swept by from the second last over the course and cap turning for home until Supermick swept by from the second last over the course and cap turning to the good enough and it is a bit of cap to 13 days ago. A reproduction of that form would be good enough to severith) isoperatively. In 15th and 18th which is a long way out here) in a 3 m3 it detainer on that same then more that form that which is a long way out here) in a 3 day detainer on that same can. Dropping back in discarce will surfain much more and his third to Summerfull Special Dropping back in discarce will surfain much more and his third to Summerfull Special Dropping back in discarce will surfain much more and his third to Summerfull Special Dropping back in discarce will surfain much more and his third to Summerfull Special Dropping back in discarce will surfain much more and his third to Summerfull Special Dropping back in discarce will be suffered by the second properties of the second prope Caspton Beluga is centain to lead and, if MOUSE BERD is not it enough for his first run in aimost a year, he could very well maximain his position throughout. Mouse Berd, hovever, put in own good runs with Encore fur Peu last November and hat one good effort ear over a longer trip at Sandown. Fall Quiver, who missed his intended hurdling debut in a Uttowater seller recently, has a good fourth in a 14-furling clothing hundlage at Selsativity in Sandamber to recommend. 3.30 CLAUDE WHITLEY MEMORIAL CUP (HANDICAP CHASE) (CLASS D) £7,500 added 3m 2f 110yds Peneity Value £5,158 1.30 BOWRING NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £4,000 added 2m 5f 110yds Penalty Value £2,788 546-R33 SPECIAL ACCOUNT (13) (Tony Foreign C Barnel 9 11 10... 15422-1 NEANO (13) (CD) (Maleson Partnership P Hobbs 6 11 8.... 2 15427-1 PARZEARO (280) JA Monshi W Turner 6 11.7

4 21428- BOND JAR (620) PALI K Barcer P Nictula 6 11.6

5 223121 BANDOWN BILL (23) (See Sauron M Pos 6 11.7

34F229- SENSAMACABILE (23) (O) (Dust Meacal Sparring A Nic \_A P McCo

- 7 declared SETTING: 2-1 Names, 9-4 Board Jury 9-2 Basertown SSE, 5-1 Nazzaro, 14-1 Alia Georgia, 20-1 Spechal Acquest, Sessementantile 1994: Cetto Pance 8 10 11 Junis 11-4 (N A Twiston-Davis) Sign

Six-year-old Bond Jinr comes from a stable living at present and it looks a shrewd move putting this amant point-to-pointer shreigh into a handlasp. After a couple of talls Bond for improved rapidly to complete has hat-trick with a decisive win from a good field in the Lady Dudley Cup, the point-to-point Derby, While ha is a hot prospect, this looks live turning tube a sliegging match and the selection is KEANO, who has already proved himself in the continuors by outstaying Bond Ann's stablemate Martial Boy over the course and distance 13 days ago, when he had Special Account a distance tack in third. Being 11th worse in with the third makes it a bit more difficult for Keano, but the ground will be even more testing today and he loves that.

Selections KEANO.

4.00 BOUNDERIES INTERMEDIATE OPEN NH (CLASS H) £2,000 added 2m 1f Penalty Value £1,605 DAILYST MICH Phon R Bucker 5 11 4\_

BALLYSTOWARD ORG. Blood R Burder 5 11 4 B Powds
GULLINY (Executive Recorg) Mass H Wright 4 11 4 G F Ryen (5)
GRANHAM PRODE (M S Recorg) K Boley 5 11 4 R Boundardy
6 JAC DEL PRINCE (13) (Desch Mitherd) P Norbids 5 11 4 A P McCorg
4 MANLER (13) Gregisch Bochnerinn Partnershalt T I vasion Daves 5 11 4 JK Keigher (17)
PRIJONARD (17) PRODE (M N P POWDS 5 11 4 JK Keigher (17)
PRIJONARD (17) PRODE (M N P RODE 5 11 4 JK Keigher (17)
PRIJONARD (18) SURF (B R Edgeley) Mrs J Rentine-Scatter 8 11 4 R Gregor
BRITIANCE (False Card House) Mrs J Charles 5 11 4 G United

RODE (14) And C David M Textine-Scatter 5 11 4 Mrs M Brook SCOTOY (216) (Mark G Rimell) N Truston-Cases 5 11 4. 045 SOLDIER-8 (136) (No Gerrude M Fosser) Anthony Foster 5 11 4. PLS SOLDIER B (230) (MS Gentler IN INSERT) WHO IN THE STATE
O STEER PORT (12) BHS J R BESIGN R FIRE 4 11 4
O WHAT'S DREAM (174) (Carleson Weigh A Lernes 6 11 4
O CHESTER'S CHRT (M) HOSZOD Plotinel IM Pipe 8 10 13
O KINNERS MELION (13) (B R King K Beston 4 10 13 \_1 Fres 0 LEDOM LAFEK (13) () 1 Webbert R Bates 6 10 13

- 15 dec BETTENC: 5-2 Scottly, 4-1 Mainten, 5-1 Grandson Pride, 6-1 Carolida, 10-1 Jac Del Priece, 14-1 Kongles Melody, 18-1 others 1994: Bej Strand 5-11 O R Duniscody 6-1 fil Papel 15cm

Mahler steped well when fourth behind Riverdale Boy in 8 bumper at Bangor 18 days ago. Mahler shaped well when fourth behind Riverdale Boy in 8 Dumper at Bargor 15 days ago. That compares favourably with his more expensived stablemate Scottly's form lest season. Another that but in a good first show was KIDNGES MELCOY, fourth to Castle Sweep, just over four lengths in front of Jac Del Prizoca, at the last meeting. She made quick headway to put nersalt right in the poture coming out of the best sarriget and was only just found out for gazer on the sun to the line in what seemed a good race. Grantam Pride is a full-brother to a NH Flat winner and worth noting in the betting.

Selection: KIDNGES MELDOY. and Brief Gale, will get the for his gelding. To like him to trainer, Edward O'Grady, is ground they want to contest the run if it rains as he's been readv Josh Gifford, the trainer of the day," he said. If the grey does top-weight, Brief Gale, said yes- make the journey to post, Adri-

# McGrath the evergreen Irish artisan



As the Republic of Ireland squad prepare for tomorrow's crucial European Championship qualifier in Portugal, the odds are that Paul Mo-Grath will be fast asleep or guzzling

from a bottle. The Paul McGrath in question is, it must be said, barely three months old. His father, the Paul McGrath, will be present and correct in Lis-bon's Stadium of Light for a game which is set to decide whether the Irish reach next summer's finals, as well as Jack Charlton's future as

centre-back - arguably the finest defender of his generation - will be playing his 79th international match, making him the most capped footballer in the Republic's history. Not bad for someone whose knees are perpetually reputed to be on their last legs, and whose periodic excesses have seen him cast as sporting equivalent of Brendan Behan or Shane MacGowan.

To meet McGrath is to challenge your preconceptions. Not least about the notorious knees, which he insists are "grand". He does not pretend to be a candidate for the Temperance XI, yet it is hard to imagine anyone less like the self-destructive problem child Alex Ferguson felt compelled to sell for

McGrath, who will be 36 next month, always exudes a massive presence and confidence on the pitch. Off it, he is almost painfully self-effacing and gently genial. Once he relaxes, without a drink in sight, he is also humorous and dis-

armingly frank. For instance he is prepared to say, without a trace of conceit, that he ought to have won even more caps. There were a lot of rough edges when I first went to Manchester United [from St Patrick's Athletic in 1982]. But I was established in the team well before I got the call. I think I should be been pushed forward earlier.

In the event it was 1985, with St Jack's era still a year away and Eoin Hand at the helm, before he received his chance as substitute for Mark Lawrenson against Italy in front of what seemed like "a million people" at Dalymount Park. The world champions won 2-1, hut

Hand was already using players
the Ealing-born, Dublin-bred
acGrath among them—who qualplay the fiddle."

"We had to get them in," McGrath
explains. "None of us knew how to
play the fiddle." McGrath among them - who qual-ified by virtue of a parent's birth-place. Chariton took the process to its logical conclusion. "Jack went looking for players," McGrath ad-mits, "though none of the lads with us now just wanted a country to play for. They're Irish through and

Phil Shaw meets the man who is set to become his country's most capped player

in tomorrow night's decisive European

He recalls that Charlton's first training session, conducted in a cramped hall, "raised a few eyebrows". Likewise his decision to make McGrath captain. "I looked around me and Liam Brady and Frank Stapleton were there, Kevin Moran too. I was in shock because I'm the quietest of lads. I'm not a

shouter on the pitch.

"Now Liam is the best player I've played with for Ireland, by far. So I went to him and the others and went AWOL between Italia W and USA '94. It was a of his enoperate! I told

want to do it.

take the ball out and I did it for five of growing up. By the time they I've done mine went to West Germany for the Eurin public, Which ropean Champion-ship finals of 1988, is the hard part' the Republic had

developed a system slender resources, McGrath's role was as midfield anchor. The group stage pitted them against England. whose Old Trafford contingent ribbed him mercilessly about the drubbing to come.

All the sweeter, then, when Ray Houghton put the Irish ahead early on. Soon afterwards, McGrath jarred his knee while "foolishly trying a shot". By half-time it had stiffened up completely.
"I was in a bad way and shouldn't

have gone out. I've got the game on video and in the second half I was just chasing shadows. The lads were carrying me, which is why England came into it so strongly and prohably should've won."

The Republic held on, and the party at the team's Stuttgart hotel went on until the small hours. Players supped freely with fans: something few other international sides, if any, would countenance.

The 1990 World Cup in Italy saw the Irish master the art of winning through without winning matches. McGrath. now under Graham Tay-lor's wing at Villa and still operat-ing in midfield, had an ourstanding tournament. Characteristically, he cites an incident in which he was an onlooker as the one he treasures.

We had to wm a shoot-out with Romania in Genoa to reach the quarter-finals. David O'Leary, who'd come on as sub, was running round organising everyone for the penalties. I didn't take one – I was hiding because I didn't have the bottie. Needless to say, Dave scored the

measure of his enduring excellence that Charlton, dethem I didn't real- 'I've been foolish but Jack said, Just but it's all part scribing him as "a special case... the best player in Britain", kept faith with him. "I've been fool-

lic, which is the hard part, but I which maximised their relatively think I've learned from my mistakes. Jack accepted me back, and I hope I've repaid him on the pitch."
Installments are made with a con-

ish, but it's all part of growing up. Tvc done mine in pub-

sistency that belies his age and image. After the Irish stunned Italy in New York, Charlton called him 'm-mense". But nothing, McGrath maintains, could have prepared them for the sauna heat encountered at Orlando against Mexico, "It was a ridiculous day to play football. The Mexicans ran round doing one-twos, laughing at us while

we were melting.
We thought we could bounce back, but we never got over it. We just didn't perform against Holland. We felt we'd let people down,

which was a bad way to go."

Epic as the clashes with England and Italy were, the match that stands out for McGrath among the 78 to date was fought out in less glamorous surroundings. Needing to avoid defeat by Northern Ireland

Championship qualifying match in Lisbon in Belfast to book their passage to America, the Republic hit back to draw I-I.

"It's one I'd never want to play again because of the tension of the night. But the feeling when we got back to Dublin was fantastic. The whole city seemed to be out cele-

whole city states with one possible exception. To Eamon Dunphy, the tabloids "joily green giant" was only a "smalltown hero" whose teams were actually under-achieving. Stapleton and Mick McCarthy used to leave the grown when he entered. Methe room when he entered. Me-Grath, revealing an independent streak, balances fierce loyalty to Charlton with the view that Dun-phy is "good for Irish football". "It's no use everybody patting wou

on the back all the time, yes-men telling you you're great. The odd comment upsets you, but that spurs you on to prove them wrong.

On the subject of motivation. Charlton warned after last month's narrow win over Latvia that he would resign if they failed to make it to England. "None of the lads want to see Jack go after all he's done for us," McGrath says. "And a few of us might be on our way if we go out, so there's every incen-

This is not a veiled threat, rather an acceptance of the possibility that a new manager would dispense with the old guard. Nevertheless. McGrath loves representing his country and feels he is playing as well as ever. "I've no plans to retire yet. I'll be a long time not playing football, so whoever's in charge want to go on as long as possi-

Taking the caps record off Pack-ie Bonner would not, he concedes, be much consolation if results went against them. But the Irish, for whom victory would guarantee qualification, can still beat anyone on their day, according to McGrath. They certainly got the better of Portugal at Lansdowne Road.

After that 1-0 success, a member of the visiting entourage sought out the Republic's No 5 to ask for his shirt. Honoured though the wearer was to oblige the great Eusebio. he is unlikely to relinquish it so readily in Lisbon. It will, after all, be something to show the other Paul McGrath when dribbling begins to

## **Unexpected glint** of gold for 49ers

American football

A season in which the form book has been of about as much relevance as the good book set new standards in its unpredictability on Sunday when the San Francisco 49crs confounded the pundits, the public and, most importantly, the Dallas Cowboys with an asionishing perfor-

mance in Texas Stadium. The meeting of the two best teams of the 1990s had long been regarded as the crucial encounter of the regular season, but the 49ers contrived to undermine its status in recent weeks by repeatedly prostrating themselves before the sport's also-rans. When the news came last week that their quarterback, Steve Young, had not recovered from his shoulder injury. it was difficult to see how the Super Bowl

champions could avoid a beating. Beating there was, but it was the Cowboys who sustained it, thrashed 38-20 in front of their own fans. "I'll put it straight," Deion Sanders, the Cowboy who was a 49er, said. "They kicked our butts, and they proved they don't have to have

Steve Young to beat us." The 49ers snatched the iniuative immediately. Rice scoring considerable confidence.

on an SI-yard pass play and Mer ton Hanks returning a fumble to establish a 14-0 lead after 84 seconds. With uncanny echoes of the NFC Championship game in January, the Cowboys continued to self-destruct and by early in the

second quarter the lead had

been stretched to 24-0, with

Troy Aikman out of the game. Emmitt Smith, meanwhile, was being thwarted by a Herculean effort from the 49ers defense. As a result the Cowboys' entire attacking gameplan was disrupted and even the touchdown they did muster in the second quarter - from Smith owed much to a fortunate pass interference call.

The 49ers retaliated with their own scoring drive as the half closed and, with a 31-7 lead at the interval, the contest was all over har the clouting. This there was plenty of during a turbulent second half but by being restricted to field goals in the third quarter the improved effort of the

A famous victory should re-ignite the 49ers' season. After a turbulent month they look capable again of returning to the NFC Championship game. Should it be back in Dallas (as still looks likely) they will approach it with

## THE TAYLOR MONTHS: The weight of fans' expectations and a welter of injuries proved too much Taylor falls through credibility gap

The seeds of Graham Taylor's demise at Molineux were sown two years ago last month on an apocalyptic night in the Feyenoord stadium at Rotterdam.

Taylor's credibility and - it seemed to those who observed him closely during his 20-month reign as manager of Wolverhampton Wanderers - his confidence were damaged irreparably when the Notherlands shattered England's hopes of qualifying for the 1994 World Cup finals.

Already dubbed "The Turnip" by one newspaper, Taylor's image was further tarnished by the screening of a Channel 4 documentary featuring his tragi-comic touchline antics as the Dutch sealed his fate. Phrases like "Do I not like that" entered popular usage.

The sight of a nerdish Taylor puppet spouting a stream of semi-consciousness on Spitting Image compounded the impres-Cowboys was never transformed into a sustained comeback. Fowler firmly bent on redress

Before that infamous Cutting Edge programme - in which Taylor also swore profusely -Wolves' owner, Sir Jack Hayward, had been sitting in his retreat in the Bahamas pondering whether to offer him the job in succession to Graham Turner.

Informed of Taylor's behaviour by his son Jonathan, the chairman. Sir Jack cooled his interest (under pressure from his wife and butcher, he later admitted). There was a brief flirtation with Bryan Robson, but he was an unknown quantity, and expensive too. The Hay- a Sun headline over a story wards began to reconsider Taylor's plus points.

Not only was he vastly experienced, having been in management since December 1972. hut he had proved with both Watford and Aston Villa his ability to win promotion to and establish a side in what is now the Premiership.

sion of Taylor, a personable, ur-bane individual, as a figure of fun. Turnip off our patch" screamed evening a Wolves team without

## The Graham Taylor story

1965 At 21. becomes youngest person to quality for full FA coacting badge. 1968-72 Makes 150 appearances for Lincoln, 1972 Playing gases rended by mp many at age 28.

19872 Paying cases ended by the many at age 28. Decorate intensity of Lincoln.

1976: Uncorn Fourth Division to thampions.

1977: Quits fancits for Walford, salving the club. Horn Fourth Division to the Frast in the seasons.

1983 Toylor guides Walford to second in the First Oversion as they qualify for Europe for first time.

1984 Walford toe 2-0 in FA Club first of Viscoln.

1986 Valed Walford to manage Asson Vale.

1988 Tests Villa back to the top flight at end of limit season, as runners-up in Second Division.

1990 Quide Walford to become in First Division. manager of England as aucoessor to Bobby Robson. Taylor had progressed through the international sarks

quoting supporters' club officials who resented the fact that Taylor had dropped Steve Bull early in his England reign. Ironically, one of Taylor's fi-

nal acts was to drop the Molineux cult hero for the first time in his Wolves career. But after the board had hitten the bullet. re Premiership. late in March last year, he was Yet Wolves' fans, even then, at pains to stress that Bull was had their doubts: "Keep the central to his plans. In the

by taking change of England youth. Under 20 and 8 seems Pestigative nothings of count learn sees England pool as first England pool which the provide seem sees England pool as first England their injured talisman won at Bolton, and followed up by beating Tranmere in Taylor's

first game in complete charge. Results tailed off and they failed to reach the play-offs, but after a substantial expenditure on players hopes were high that Wolves would shortly enjoy the status their magnificently

refurbished stadium merited. They started well enough, and at this stage last year led the

#### Charlton sets record straight

Jack Charlton will not immeare eliminated from the Euro-

to go."

Charlton has injury doubts over his captain Andy Townsend

art McCall (rib injury), is the only player doubtful for Scotland's last Group Eight quali-fier against San Marino at Hampden Park tomorrow.

Wales yesterday lost their captain, Barry Home, when he became the latest player to pull out of the trip to Albania. The 33-year-old Everton midfielder

A devastating succession of injuries - Wolves had a complete team's worth of players under the surgeon's knife last season - undouhtedly undermined their challenge. But when things went wrong, it was also noticeable that Taylor was quick to go on the defensive, revealing a negative side to his character that had not been evident prior to the fiasco of his final months with England.

The crowd never warmed to him, regarding themselves, pointedly, as "Jack Hayward's Barmy Army". Although Wolves finished fourth - their best position in a decade -their failure in the play-offs suggested that expectations for the current campaign might be artificially high.

The signing of Bradford City's Dean Richards for a club-record £1.85m, followed by the £1m purchase of Mark Atkins from Blackburn, nudged Taylor's outlay towards the £8m mark. Wolves, however, peaked

EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIE GROUP SIX England v Austrie (8.0) (al Riverside stadium, Mikillesbrough)

MITRE UNDER-21 CHALLENGE Football League v Italian League Serie B (at Alfred McAlpine stadium, Huddersfield)

(SI Alfred McAlpine stadium, Huddersheld)
AUTO WINDSCREENS SHIELD
NORTHERN SECTION
GROUP FIVE FIRST ROUND
BUTY V Wigan
GM VALDHALL CONFERENCE
Kettering v Weiling (7.46)
REPIRESENTATIVE MATCHES: UmBond
League v Football Association VI (at Accring
ton Stanley FC); Matchinead United v icis
League VI.
League V Waller League V League V League VI.
League VI.

LEAGUE OF WALES League Cup first round: Sangor City v Cernaes Bay: Newtown v Caersers.

Football

(7.30 unless stated)

GROUP EIGHT Scotland v Sen Marino (at Firhill stadium, Glase)



Taylor: Poor season

in 12th place and were down at 18th following Sunday's goalless draw at home to Charlton, in which they appeared sorely lacking in motivation.

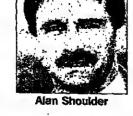
Afterwards, as hundreds chanted for his sacking. Taylor said it would be dishonourable to walk away from a job he had heen given by people with "integrity", a quality he described as rare in football. Sir Jack had repeatedly expressed his conviction that Taylor was the man to lead Wolves back to the promised land, and it seemed the matter would rest there. Someone, clearly, changed his mind yesterday.

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

fore in the FA Cup, most notably in 1978 when they were a minute away from becoming the first non-League team to reach the quarterfinals only for Wretham to equalise replay drew 41,000 to St James' Park, borrowed for the night, but the Third Division side won 2-1. The run was the making of sev-

eral players, among them Alan Shoulder, a 25-year-old miner from the Durham village of Leasingthome. League scouts began tracking the 5ft 5in forward and the following season, after scoring twice in a 5-3 first-round defeat against York,

Newcastle offered him a contract. "It was a bit of a gamble," Shoulder said, "I was a deputy and on good money. But I took the chance. Fortunately, the pit manager was a Newcastle fan because I should The gamble paid off, launching a lest of three sisters, wants to be a career that brought more than 100 football physic. goals for Newcastle, Carlisle and



forced him to quit in 1988.

Despite the handicap of double vision, the legacy of the injury, Shoulder today runs a poultry farm from his nine-acre smallholding, manages Crook Town in the Northern League

over-40s team at Sperviymoor. Married since 1977 to his childhood sweetheart, Marie, a schoolteacher, he still lives in Leasingthorne. His daughter, Louise, at 15 the old-

Jon Culley

Robbie Fowler plans to exorcise the worst memory of his short, but stunningly successful career by transferring his prodigious goalscoring record for Liverpool to the international stage.

The Liverpool marksman spearheads the England attack in their final and decisive European Under-21 Championship qualifier against Austria at Middleshrough's Riverside Stadium tonight. It was in the corresponding

fixture in Austria last year that Fowler was sent off after seeing his Anfield team-mate, Jamie Redknapp, inspire the team to victory with a superb hat-trick. "Everything was going real-ty well," Fowler said. "We were 3-1 up, then I went and got myself sent off. It's not my happi-

est memory in football. "My sending off took all the headlines away from Jamie. I thought the dismissal was totally out of order but had to accept it. I ended up missing the next four games, which was very disappointing. I hope I can make up for what happened with a goal against them."

England need to beat Austria.

then they must hope the Re-

public of Ireland gain at least a

Group Six leaders. That would allow Dave Sexton's team, who collected one point from a possible six against the Portuguese, to claim the solitary qualifying place. "Robbie owes us a goal," Sexton said. "He has not scored many for us. But he is like Jimmy Greaves. He has that same low centre of gravity and is a similar type of finisher, though he will be a lot stronger physically. This is our most important

game. We have got to win and hope that the Republic can get a result in Portugal." Fowler also knows international goals will be vital as he

want to score in every game. "Jamie and Steve McManaman have both made the stenup from the Under-21s and it's my aim to follow them."

attempts to make the full senior squad in time for next year's European Championship. He said: "I've scored twice in seven games for the Under-21s and though some people would be happy with that, I'm not. I

Sexton's build-up has been affected by the withdrawals through injury of the captain and regular keeper, Paul Gcrrard, of Oldham (knee), Norwich's Darren Eadie and Dean draw against Portugal, the Gordon of Crystal Palace (both

thigh). David Unsworth, of Everton, has been given the captaincy while Newcastle's Robhie Elliott is drafted in.

In addition to the returning

Fowler, the Aston Villa goal-keeper Michael Oakes, Man-

chester United's Nicky Butt and Chris Bart-Williams, of Nottingham Forest, are the other changes to the side which drew a friendly in Norway last month. Scotland's Under-21 side continue their attempt to qualify for the last eight of the European Championship against San Mar-ino at Firhill tonight, seeking a seventh successive group win. If Finland fail to collect three points in Russia, the Scots will

gardless of the result in Glasgow. Dundee United's Christian Dailly extends his record of Un-der-21 caps to 30, while Dailly's Tannadice team-mate, Steven Pressley, will captain the side. The Southampton reserve, Paul Sheerin, is given a debut at this level in midfield. The two strikers will be Jim Hamilton, of Dundee, and Andy Liddell, of Barnsley, Celtic's Simon Don-nelly and Neil McCann, of

qualify for the quarter-finals re-

Dundce, will be on the wings. Under-21 teams, Sporting Digest, page 27

diately resign as manager of the Republic of Ireland if they pean Championships against Portugal in Lisbon tomorow

"No matter what happens here I'm going to sit down and think about it," the 60-year-old Charlton said yesterday. "I never said I was definitely leaving. I said I would consider it. And it certainly won't be the press that drives me out, it will be the people of Ireland. The people will let me know when it's time

(foot) and his Aston Villa teammate, Steve Staunton, who has not played for three weeks because of a hamstring injury.
The Rangers midfielder, Stu-

TODAY'S FIXTURES UNIBOND LEAGUE First Division: Congleton v Eastwood Town.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE First Division: Favesham v Chatham; Herne Bay v Carterbury. Wirstable v Sheppey.

MORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE President's Cup third round; Belper v Borrowash; Goole v Osen Town; Hertied Mann v Yorkshine Amateur; Mality v Hucknell.

EWSON I RESTEED LEAGUE. JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Division:

WOODERINGS V FORWITTED COUNTIES LEAGUE CLP Second round: Scaling v Holbeach: Start-MEREWARD UMTED COUNTIES LEAGUE CUP Second round: Spaining vholbreach: Startford v Stavarts and Lloyds Corby.
PONTINS LEAGUE First Division: Derby v Sheffled Wednesstey (7.0); Bestign v Notes Consty (7.0); Lempool v Bolton (7.0); tot Southboar 70. Second Divisions Beladopol v Grentsly (7.0); Covernty v Burnley (7.0); Manchester City Presant (6.45); Rotherham v Port Valer (7.0). Third Divisions Shrewsbury v Chester (7.0). Third Divisions Shrewsbury v Chester (7.0). Third Divisions Portstrouth v Queen's Pafi Rangers (7.0). Second Division: Pymouth v Torquey (2.0).

Rugby League

STONES CENTENARY LEAGUE First Division of Whitehaven (7,30).

Rugby Union

round: Barrigor City v Cernices Bay: Newtown v Coerses; State LEAGUE Premier Division: Hitchin Town v Chersey Town (7.45); Second Division: Becknell v College Row; Carney Island v Wisenhoe: Chellont St. Peser v Benstead; Medicing Police v Saffron Western: Withern v Hungertord, Third Division: Claptor v Homebrey, Wesdatistone v Southair Windsor and Eton v Cone. Cerition Gue Fiest round: Barron Rowers v Heybridge Swiffs: Theme v Martow.

BEAZER HOMNES LEAGUE Premier Division: Beazer Rowers v Heybridge Swiffs: Theme v Martow.

SEAZER HOMNES LEAGUE Premier Divisions and Eton v Cone. Seaton Rangers (7.45); Cernindge City v Growsend and North-Seet; Gouçester v Halesowen Town; Hastings v Sudbuy Town; Beaston v Chelemston; Western V Saffron Rangers (7.45); Cernindge City v Growsend and North-Seet; Gouçester v Halesowen Town; Hastings v Sudbuy Town; Beaston v Chelemston; Method of the Seet TOUR MATCHES: Connaught v Fix 13.0) (at Gal-way); North and Midlands v Western Semoa (7.30) (at McDiannid Park, Parth). (7.30) (at McDiamid Park, Porth).

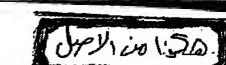
LIS INSURANCE UNDER-21 COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP Midiamids. Poot: Warner/shire or
North Middands (7.30) (at Coverny).

REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES: Devior v Somerset (7.30) (at Exiter): WRU President's Under-21 VV thew Zestand Under-21 (7.15) (at 
Poramadia).

tor

Porgphato, CLAB MATCHES: Abageon v Moureair: Ach 17 (b): Ammanford v Llandowsy (7 (b): Beny Hill v Pe narth (7,0): Gloucester v Cheffenham (7,0). Other sports BOWLS: European Team Championships (Jer

KER: Benson and Hedge: Championship



# Welsh players and administrators seem to feel the deprivation caused by the loss of annual matches against English clubs

The League system has undoubtedly done a lot for English rugby. Whether it has done anything for the game in Wales is more questionable. The Courage League has matched clubs that were not on visiting terms, such as Harlequins and Wasps - and, incidentally, exposed the claims of some northern and Cornish clubs that they were the subject of unfair discrimination by the selectors. The Heineken League, by contrast, has served mainly to demonstrate how thinly the available talent in Wales is spread.

There is something else. By this time in the season, in pre-League days, Cardiff, Llanelli and Swansca would have visited Twickenham or Old Deer Park to play Harlequins or London Welsh (for Twickenham

rather than the Stoop, was then the Quins' principal pre-Christmas ground). In addition, the last two Welsh clubs, together with Neath, Wasps and, on the Welsh side, had fixtures with Richmond until Llanelli's annual visit was called off after the Raking-of-Ralston episode of 1978 (where, oddly enough, the guilty party was an Englishman

playing for the Welsh club).
Welsh players and administrators seem to feel the deprivation more keenly than do their English opposite numbers. There is now a recommendation from the Rugby Football Union that, out of a First Division of 10, the top four clubs should participate in a European tournament and the bottom six in an Anglo-Welsh competition. In my opinion, this is a pointless Cardiff, Llanelli, Pontypridd and Swansea?

This, of course, is to assume that the Welsh fall in with the RFU. It seems they have not been consulted. The RFU appear to have come up with a succession of ideas out of the hat, for all the world as if they were a kind of rugby think-tank - or, come to that, a collection of columnists - rather than a responsible organisation with obligations towards players, supporters and equivalent bodies throughout the world.



on rugby

week ago. That can wait. It is, rather, to point to the effects of the exclusion of Wales from England

Welsh riigby as I was a decade ago. By this stage of the year I should have observed, playing for the principal clubs, about three-quarters of the contenders for places in the national side. Instead, over the last three years, I have, as far as Welsh nugby is concerned, seen most of the internationals at Twickenham and watched Cardiff, together with Swansea's matches against Australia and South Africa. The rest of my recent knowledge I have derived from Rugby Special.

Now this programme, whatever its deficiencies - the principal of which is that, since it was farmed out to in-My object here, however, is not to analyse the whole of the report which was published just under a to come clean. One effect is that I lyness—has nevertheless been more

Welsh rugby. Indeed, the more dyed-in-the-wool English supporters might justifiably complain, in much the same spirit as I switch off (sometimes metaphorically, more often literally) when Hawick are playing Gala.

Instead of complaining, however, English supporters say to me: "As World Cup. Jack Rowell can do so your club rugby is so good, as we see, the because he has past success to bolon Rugby Special week after week, ster him and the side. Bowring's first how is it that the national side are so bad?" The answer, so I am told by friends who watch Welsh rugby week after week, is that the clubs are just as had as the national side. Television, through skilful cutting, makes them look better than they

The Welsh side on Saturday did

am not as well-informed about than fair in the share it allots to not look better than they were because I watched them uncut. For myself, I echo George Formby's song: "Things Might Have Been A Great Deal Worse."

My view is that it is folly for Kevin Bowring (who looks like being appointed coach on a long-term basis) to look ahead four years to the task is to restore self-confidence. This means playing the best players, not only leuan Evans, but Robert Jones and Jonathan Davies. I should put Davies in the centre. retain Justin Thomas at full-back and give Arwel Thomas, now of Bristol, formerly of Neath, a go at outside-half....

# Springboks make all the right noises

**Rugby Union** STEVE BALE

If Kobus Wiese throws a punch at an Englishman at Twickenham on Saturday like he did at a Welshman in September, it will very likely be the end of his Springbok career. It is a salutary warning for the 18st lock before South Africa conclude the year which climaxed by winning the World Cup in June. But the South African management have such faith in their

they would not so much as contemplate the possibility. "I would put my reputation on the fact that we will live up to our code of conduct," Morne du Plessis, the team manager, said last night.
"We feel sufficiently confi-

dent that he will not do it again - that's why he has been selected," After Wiese floored Derwyn Jones in the South Africa-Wales game in Johannesburg he was fined £9,000 and suspended for 30 days, an absence only nine days longer than man that when they arrived in that enforced on the unfortu-

# RFU in talking mood

Right now the Rugby Football Union has so many antagonists that it has a vested interest in believing it's good to talk and Tony Hallett, the Union's secretary, believes vesterday's talks with Sir John Hall have averted the threat of legal action, writes Steve Bale.

Now that his business interests control Newcastle RFC, Sir John has his own vested interest in removing the RFU's 120day qualification for transferred players. He is impatient to accommodate Roh Andrew, Dean Ryan, Steve Bates, Tony Underwood Doddie Weir and Gary Armstrong in his side.

Hence the legal threat, which weight as long as their moratorium on professionalism exists, ie, the rest of the season, "He speaks in uncompromising terms about the future of rugby, but this is leavened by a wish to see only the best for the game. The emollient Hallett said after the meeting. However, he did add: The registration regulations

Newcastle would also prefer to avoid relegation from the Second Division, an eventuality increasingly contingent on whether the National Clubs' Association, of which they are a member, agrees that there should be none when the division is expanded from 10 to 14 clubs. So far, the NCA has been unable to reach an agreed

David Sole, the former Scotland captain, is being carpeted by the Scottish Rugby Union for remarks about the referee that followed Melrose's win over Edinburgh Academicals on Saturday. A series of penalties awarded against Accies by Colthe RFU considers carries no in Henderson, a Borders referee, culminated in the winning try in injury-time.

"That was tantamount to cheating," Sole, these days the Accies coach, said after the match.

Initially, the Union is to write to him demanding an explanation, though yesterday Sole was unrepentant, "Having had time to reflect, I still feel we were

London from Italy yesterday nate Jones because he had been concussed.

"He was punished - and misbed severely. He missed a lot of Transvaal's Currie Cup. I hope that will be sufficient deterrent." Missing Transvaal games these days means losing out financially, and with some Springboks said to he on £140,000 for a year's Test rugby the disciplinary imperative has never been greater. The Ellis Park incident was an

unfortunate postscript to the World Cup, which for the Springboks reached its low point at the battle of Port Elizabeth against Canada. "In a moment of madness at Boet Erasmus we let ourselves down," Du Plessis said. "We regrouped and went through to the World Cup final without further incident but we possibly lost the emphasis again when we played Wales. We reminded ourselves of our commitment to discipline and we will work on it all the time." By choice the South Africans

are in a West End hotel with none of the peace and quiet touring teams usually crave. Immediately on arrival they took themselves off for a run in Hyde Park and this morning they are training at the Honourable Artillery Company Ground in the City of London when the team will be finalised from the 21 who are here. On Sunday the Springboks beat Italy 40-21 in Rome.

England's selection, meanwhile, has created some confusion among those charged with dictating South African tactics, because the absence of Dean Richards, Brian Moore and especially Roh Andrew makes the English attacking pattern far more difficult to predict. "If I must rate the England side now, I think they are more dangerous," François Pienaar,



Shane Warne celebrates taking the wicket of Salim Malik in Brisbane yesterday Photograph: Reuter Aktar over extra cover for six and

# Warne completes the rout of Pakistan

Australia 463 Pakistan 97 and 240 Australia win by an innings and 126 runs

Shane Warne returned the best match analysis by an Australian bowler against Pakistan on home soil as Mark Taylor's men completed a resounding victory on the fourth day of the first Test in Brisbane yesterday.

Warne added four wickets to the seven he took in Pakistan's first innings to finish with 11 for 77 and, inevitably, the Man of the Match award.

Resuming on 197 for 3 and still needing to score 169 to make Australia bat again, Pakistan lost their last seven wickets for 43 runs in just under one hour. Inzamam-ul-Haq, who shows began the day on 56, added just game."

six before he lofted a ball from Mark Waugh to Craig McDer-moti at mid-off. That was the beginning of the end for Pakistan, with not one of their last day. Wasim Akram, the Pakistan six batsman able to reach double figures as Warne mopped up .. the tail.

Warne claimed he struck a blow for justice after dismiss the former Pakistan captain, Salim Malik, for a duck. It was the pair's first confrontation at the wicket since the Australians accused the Pakistani of offering bribes to throw matches in a 1994 tour of Pakistan - a charge strenously denied by Salim and rejected by Pakistan

cricket authorities. Warne said: "I really enjoyed taking his wicket for obvious reasons. I think the dismissal shows there is justice in the Australia announced an unchanged side for the second Test, starting in Hobart on Frimistakes in the game but we will definitely come back stronger and fitter in Hobart."

(Fourth day; Australie won tost)
AUSTRALIA - First healings 463 (S R Waugh
112 no, M A Taylor 69, M E Waugh 59, G S
Blewett 57, D C Boon 54).

7-23].

PARESTAN — Second lentings
(Overnight: 197 for 3)
Insamen-ut-Herr of McCormott b M Waugh 62
Best All thur b McGrath — 26
Hotin Khen c Healy b Reifiel — 9
Waterin Auren c Stater b Warme — 6
Selfon Malic e McCormott b Warne — 0
Selfon Mushted not out — 2
Wagar Youris law b Warne — 0
Meharmad Auren Bur b Warne — 0 Extras (b7 nb11) ...

Total (85.5 colors) 240 Pail: 1-30, 2-88, 3-167, 4-217, 5-218, 6-233, 7-233, 8-239, 8-240. Southing McDermott 11-0-47-0; McGratt 25-7-78-4; Retfiel 15-4-47-1; Warne 27.5-10-54-4; SR Waugh 2-1-3-0; M E Wangh 5-2-6-1,

#### McGrath makes maiden century

Pakistan Cricket Board XI 301 and 67-4; England A 355

Anthony McGrath, the 20-yearold Yorkshire batsman, bit a

maiden century against the Pak-

istan Cricket Board XI in Lahore yesterday. Richard Stemp, his Yorkshire, team-mate, was his partner in a last-wicket stand of 64 after McGrath, in only his seventh five-and-a-half hours. first-class game, had been on just

56 when the partnership began. McGrath, 26 overnight, had reached 54 by lunch but when Dean Headley was bowled first ball to leave England A 291 for 9 he cut loose, driving Shoaib pulling and cutting him for several other boundaries.

With Stemp supporting stubbornly, McGrath worked his way steadily through the nineties and neither did he let a sore right knee bother him, despite the fact he was limping quite badly throughout the second haif of his mnings. He hit two sixes and 11 fours in a 301ball effort that soanned almost

McGrath said: "To get my maiden hundred in England colours is a fantastic feeling. My knee has been troubling me on and off for about a year-and-ahalf and I will have a scan done when I get home. It's not really a big problem, though."

Fatt 1-4, 2-6, 3-40, 4-67

Fatt: 1-4, 2-6, 3-40, 4-67.

To bet; Wagshadler, Majd Inayot, Shoolb Al-ter, Fahad Rhen, Jeffrer, Majacshir Nexeer. Boulling: Headley 7-0-20-2; White 5-0-19-0; Sterno 7-3-12-1; Isare 2-1-5-0; Selsbury 3-2-2-10-1.

#### the RFU has already stated." cheated of victory." the captain, said. **Davis Cup goes to Newcastle**

Britain will open their 1996 Davis Cup campaign against Slovenia on an indoor court at the Castle Farm Tennis Centre. in Newcastle, from 3-5 May. It is the first time that the venue has been used for a Davis Cup tie, though the Centre has

staged an ATP Challenger tournament for the past three years. The tie, to be played on carpet, will be a first-round match in the Euro/African Zone Group Two, which Britain, with Greg Rusedski and Tim Hento win next year.

To gain promotion to the Euro/African Zone Group Onc. Britain must beat Slovenia, then either Ghana or Malta away in July and probably Egypt at home in September. Steffi Graf claimed her eigth title of the year when she survived a strong challenge from the unseeded Lori McNeil to win the Advanta Championship final in Philadelphia. 6-1, 4-6, 6-3.

Graf, who won the French Open, Wimbledon and the US Open, said: "It's the best year I've ever had, even better than

left, was claimed by Randy Smith whose stick touched it.

next day, at Busingstoke Bison.

The first period ended 2-1 to Bi-

son but a straight hat-trick from Kevin Conway in the second saw Bison win 6-3.

11 is autumn - so Tony Hand

must be leading scorer. The for-mer Murrayfield player has

moved to Sheffield Steelers and

Cardiff were found out the

in '88 when I won the Grand Slam. The competition is better now. There were difficult tournaments, difficult circum-

stances this year."
Thomas Muster and Michael Chang reprise their French Open final on the opening day of the ATP World Championships, which begin in Frankfurt today.

Other confrontations in today's round-robin group matches, featuring the world's top eight players, are the world No I Pete Sampras against Yevgeny Kafelnikov and Boris Becker against Wayne Ferreira.

Rugby league DAVE HADFIELD

The Leeds captain, Garry Schoffield, will learn today whether he will face an inquiry over an alleged head-butt during the Regal Trophy secondround tie against Salford on

Sunday.

The Rugby League's refereing director, Greg McCallum, will study a video of the incident in the match at Headingley before deciding whether Schofield will face charges.

The Salford player-coach, Andy Gregory, who was in-censed during and after the match over what he saw as an intentional attack on his booker, Mark Lee, will talk to his directors before deciding whether to cite Schofield formally.

Hugh McGahan, said: "We could question a number of things but we don't want to get involved in any tit-for-tat. We are very disappointed that Gre-gory has reacted in this way."

Schofield awaits video re-run

Leeds are to feature in the oustanding tie of the third round. Their match at home to their oeighbours, the Bradford Bulls, continues the recent tradition of the two clubs meeting each other in cup competi-

Either that or the London Broncos' home tie against Halifax is likely to be the televised match on 25 November, with the remainder of the ties played the following day. Carlisle, the giant-killers of

the last round with their shock 19-18 victory over Castleford, have been rewarded with a lower-profile but highly-win-The Leeds football director, able tie against the Hunslet

#### Hawks at the new South Leeds

St Helens have a tricky trip to Hull, while the holders, Wigan, go to the Alfred McAlpine Sta-dium to play Huddersfield. Rochdale Hornets, who trav-

el to Dewsbury following their good win at Holl KR in the second round, fear that their Australian full-back, Sean Alvarez, could have his career ended by what his coach, Steve Gibson, described as the worst broken ankle he had seen in his life. "He will be lucky if he ever plays

again," Gibson said. Wigan's England World Cup second-rower, Simon Haughton. is having an x-ray after injuring his ankle in the victory over Whitehaven, also on Sunday.

RESAL TROPHY Tolind-round drain: Hunstet v Carlste; Huddesdebt v Wight; Wordington v Widnes; Bettley v Warrington; London v Halfac; Huff v St Helans; Leeds v Baddhor; Dewatury v Rochdale (Ties to be played weekend of 25-26 November).

#### confirmation of Tyson date Boxing

Bruno is encouraged by

Frank Bruno's World Boxing Council heavyweight title fight against Mike Tyson was yesterday confirmed for 16 March at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas. Tyson is recovering from a

cracked thumb, which brought about the postponement of his fight with Buster Mathis Inr on November, although he should be ready to face Mathis in early January for his sec-

think I am at my peak. I'm a stone and a half heavier than I was for my first fight against Tyson, I'm very strong, very confident. It was music to my

ears when I heard I was fighting Tyson. I'm not just fighting any Tom, Dick or Harry, I'm fighting the No 1."

The death of James Murray has not stopped Glasgow Council sponsoring Saturday's World Boxing Organisation lightflyweight title fight between Paul Weir and Baby Jake Matlala at the Kelvin Hall. The fatal injuries suffered by Murray and the riot that erupted after his light with Drew Docherty last month cast a cloud over the sport.

Bruno, who begins training for the fight today, said: "This is very encouraging because I think I am at my peak."

In view of recent happenings, it is important that Glasgow is portrayed as a major fight venue again. I'm confident that everythink I am at my peak. again. I'm confident that every-thing will go well," Tommy Gilmour, the promoter, said. "We have made no extra precautions because there will be no alcohol on sale, which has been our policy for a number of years."

#### Mixed record for the Devils ice hockey Jason Stone, with two minutes

Cardiff Devils seem to rely on "get out of jail" play to win their games. It worked once last weekend, but failed at the second attempt, writes Steve Pinder. The victims were Fife Flyers, who look a 2-1 lead in the first period. Cardiff netted four in the second, but conceded three and the period ended 5-5.

Chris Palmer restored Fife's lead only for Doug McEwen to their 8-2 dismissal of Slough, equalise. Devils finally upped with Hand scoring once, took his the tempo and a slapshot by total to 100 points.

# Stevens on line for Masters

Matthew Stevens will attempt to keep the Benson and Hedges championship in Wales today. The 18-year-old Camarthen player yesterday carned a superh 6.5 comeback win over Scun-ment. thorpe's Matthew Couch in the thorpe's manufew course for world but on the provisional list Wembley debut next February. has risen to 57th following

Snooker

round to Liverpool's Rod Lawler.

His fellow countryman, Mark Williams, went on to defeat Lawler in the final to give the Welsh their first success in the six-year history of the tourna-

Stevens is ranked 236 in the Wempley or that the same great performances this Stevens muster Benson and season, including reaching the Hedges Masters 12 months ago last 16 of the Skoda Grand Prix Hedges Masters 12 months age in Sunderland last month.

American football

NRL Bufaio 23 Atlanta 17; bettot 27 Jampa Bay
24; Green Bay 35 Chragio 26; Chromotil 35 Houston 25; Seattle 47 Jacksonville 30; New England
34 Marm 17; New Charost 17 Inhanapolic 14;
Oskland 17 NY Gants 13; St Louis 28 Carolina
17. Memberson 30 Arcson 24 not; Sar Fancisco 38 Deltas 20; Ransas Chy 22 San Dego 7;
Philotopras 31 Denner 13.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

CENTRAL DIVISION WESTERN DIVISION \_9 1 0 245 \_8 2 0 250 \_5 5 0 219 \_4 6 0 222 \_4 6 0 189 NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE EASTERN DIVISION CENTRAL DIVISION

4 0 210 4 0 250 4 0 295 6 0 175 6 0 181 Basketball NEA: New York 120 Utch 110; Cerveland 21 San Antonio 84; LA Cippers 108 Denver 103; Phoenix 112 Golden State 109.

WESTERN DIVESTOR

EUROPEAN ROOCH TEMM CHARMICHERS (Massey) Winnerin gains invited (M. Wilderson et al. M. Inhestore to Scottend (S. Gourley et al. 19 Hoose to M. Inhestore to Scottend (S. Gourley et al. 19 Hoose to Guerney) IR Remout and A. Sement 20-18. Writes (C. Mongha and J. Dowego) IN Jersey (S. Nord and V. Stead) (21-13. Writeset's brightes Scottend (M. Adams, Lorente et al. 19 Hoose to Ariston, Continuing and Lorente to Heisting (M. Sotte, P. Smyth end O. Bestell 21-18; Walles, (V. Hoose), A. Danton and R. Jones to H. Serby (M. Homes), Syreta and J. Louely and C. Inground; p. 18 England, J. Necole and C. Inground; p. 18 England, J. Thomas and E. Bosself), 19-17.

CASTLE CUP (Final day of four) Johannesburg: Torrospi 431.6 77 for 1 UN Porties 54 not; Border 180.6 324 (P Boths 94. P Morths 85, 5 13-cubs 4-45). Traversed with by rithe wickers. Bionarisations Northern Traversed 179.6 -5 September 529 -5 September 6 (Corp. 126, K.Venter 95, F. Sopherson 511, Pleas State win by four wickers). wickets.

ENGLAND'S WORSEN TEAM (Second one-day internetional v ladia, Gowahad, today): J Stribe, Stratitios Irapo, 8 Daniels (second), J Britin, J Ographethia, K Long, 8 Methadia, W Parmer, H Smit (Md), M Paynard, O Stock, C Taylor.

RISH INDOOR DERBY (Sunday): 1 Rochel M (A Lederham, Fri clast, 34.46cc; 2 Everes Cert Go (M Writsher, GB) clear, 35.18, 3 Junyalie (H Van der Poll, Neth) clear, 35.65, Selectude; 7 Toges Scritas Eche (T Stockhale, GB) 4 Iaulay, 43.33; 3 ARDIPHOI Dream (D Lampard, GB) 4 tauts, 44.02.

England squad, now reduced to 22, was

Football Marisame Spacey, one of the England's most talented players has pulled out of Sunday's European Women's Champion-ship first leg metch egainst Create at Charton. Another withdrawal from the England on the Charton.

SPORTING DIGEST Villa Aztecs' Sarsh Day, who broke her cofferbone in her team's 4-1 defeat by Croydon on Sunday. ENGLAND WOMEN'S SQUAD (Esropeed Wooger's Championaths o Croadia. Charten.

EMCLAND WOMEN'S SQUAD (Entropean Women's Chemponethy or Create, Chemponethy 29 November; P Cope Method: Lorenteed, C Leavy (West Harry, D Beautice Croydon), K Devention, K Participation, C William (Member), C Whomeday, K Proceeding, K Fartey (Bournesty), F Owedon), K Sartis (Westley), K Westley Country, T Proceed (Coydon), K Devision (Dornster Belles), W Devention, M Participation, K Westley Consister Belles), MA Cettlers (Gossmood/St Helents), G Bornses (Dornsester Belles), M Mestlers (Wille Adocs), SARMA AND LEAVENING STERM (Bengoogen (Wedening Stephen), K Participation, M Participation, M

LEADING SOMY WORLD RANGEMER: 1 G Horman (Aus) 22,01pts average; 2 N Proce (2m) 18,022 8 lungs 1641 15,454 6 EE (SV) 15.75 N Fasto (GS) 14,544 6 C Montgomeric (GS) 13,85 7 C Prior (MS) 12,54: 8 F Couples (US) 11,18; 9 S Elongton (Aus) 10,76; 10 M Caste (Usper) 10,38.

ICO INCIRREY
MAL Phiadebhis 2 New Jersey 3; Tampa Bay
4 Bulleto 6; Vancouve 2 Montesel 4; Chicago
4 Edmonton 4 Jou.
STATISH LEAGUE Prenier Devision (Sett: Cerdit
7 Rie 6; Millon Kaynes 6 Durham 2; Sheffed 3
Sough 2; (Sunt: Bearrigatole 6 Cardit 3; Durham
6 Newcaster 2: Humbardes 8 Rie 3; Stough 3;
Austriachem B. First Phiadeo (Set): Brackes 100

Solfusi 2; Swindon 14 Peterburough 3; Tetlord 13 Bellingham 4, Obact: Bildingham 5 Beolevial 14; Blackoum 16 Pecanorough 1; Chelmelous 6 Swindon 9; Guildford 6 Dumilley B: Menchester 9 Tellord 5; Murrayfield 10 Solfusii 10; Patsley 8

Rugicy Uniton

Mark Denney, the Bristol centre, leads the England Under-Z1 testin against tre-land at Northempton tomorrow. West Hardepool's Immediate future may be bleak with relegation looming, but their long-term prospects appear sound with four of their players in this England side. ENGLAND UNDER-Z1 TEAM or Irreland, Northempton, tenderwise Plassey (Morely, A Blyta Misse Herdepool, M Dumay (Statel, card, J Oweney (Lacesch), 2 Jones (Mest Hardepool; S Bland (Lacesch), 3 Jones (Mest Hardepool; A Bushand (Northempton), M McCartiny (Sect), P Victory (Gloucesch), C Marphy (West Hardepool), D Zalczenia (Saccount, J Idea (Mest Hardepool), B Kay (Misserico), A Beans (Orea), Replacementar F Waters (Bath), A Raig (Rough Park), P Greening (Gloucestar), T Woodman (Bath), A Octemir (Brisch).

Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean will lead an impressive line-up for the Nutra-Sweet Challenge of Champions at London Arena, starting 14 December. It will be the Olympic chempions' first appearance in a priffessional competition in this country. No fewer than eight Olympic champions and 23 world amateur title-holders will compete, including Robin Coustres, Ketarina Witt, Kristi Yemaguchi, Victor Petrenko and Beatering Gordeeve and Sergel Girlhov.

eve and Sensei Grinkov.

BENSON AND HEIDES CHAMPIONSHIP (Exhibiting), Sensiny) Questor-Breits: M. Couch (Engl) is G Dox (Box) 5-2; M. Stevens (Mel) is R. Lwier (Engl) 5-4; R. Melfon (Engl) by A. Cheemia (Ind. 5-2; P. McPhillips (Soci) bt. M. Witson (Engl) 5-4. Sensi-Heits: M. Stevens (Mel) at M. Couch (Engl. 6-4. Sensi-Heits: M. Stevens (Mel) at M. Couch (Engl. 6-5.

STATUTO STATUTO STATUTO CONTRIBUTOR (Palamolea, Jespen) Second day of 18: Anglyarra (won
2 lost () to Ogintable (0-2); Ogintabra (1-1) to
Resugsing (1-1); Delimbro (2-0) to Hemanostrom
(1-1); Agentowske (1-1) to Keatho (1-1) to
Resugsing (1-1) to Heighton (2-1) to Keatho
(1-1) to Higgstourn (1-1); Tomerobera (1-1) to
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Rejoutudes (1-2); Tomerobera (1-1) to
Rejoutudes (1-2); Majeritum (0-2); Resonation
(1-1); Misugiston (2-0) to Keathoput
(1-1); Misugiston (2-0) to Desirh (0-2); Rosin
resonation (1-1); Medicabram (1-2); Rosin
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(1-1); Misushopo (1-1); Misushoput
(2-0) to Misushoput
(1-1); Misushoput
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After reaching the semi-finels of the ATP Challenger at Peking last week, Tim Harman, the 21-year-old Bridsh No 2, has climbed from 115 to 111 in the world renkings, his highest-ever position. Greg Rusedski, the British No 1, has also moved up, from 41 to 38, although he reached 35 last month. he reached 35 jast month.
Clare Wood, the British No 1 from Brighton, hes pulled out of the Texaco Women's Chellenger, which begins in Edinburgh today, because of a shoulder Inyury. But British will still have 10 players in the 32-strong draw including Keren Cross of Devon, Mandy Walnwright of Essex and Lancashire's Rachel Viollet.

ADVANTA WOMEN'S CHAMPIONERIPS (Plandachie) Singles fixed 5 Gar (Gar) is 1. Methel (US) and H Suiche (Cr Ren) is M McGrath (US) and L Nelson (Lan 4-6 6-3 6-4.

LEADING ATP RANKINGS: 1 P Sampras (US) 4: 811pe; 2 A Agass (US) 4: 765; 3 7 Muster (Aut) 4: 474; 4 M Chang (US) 2: 980; 5 8 Becker (Oc) 2: 746; 6 V Kalendow (Rs) 2: 560; 7 J Courier (US) 2: 464; 8 7 Enovat (Swe) 2: 548; 9 W Ferneira (SA) 2: 049; 10 0 horizo-we (Oroo) 1,861.

LEADING ATP PRIZE-MONEY WINNERS: 1 P Sampras (US) 32: 647; 566 (£1: 708; 107); 2 7 Muster (Aut) 2: 462; 979; 3 A Agass (US) 2: 309; 071; 4 Y Melendow (Rs) 1: 335; 31: 5 8 Backer (Gef) 1: 308; 109; 8 M Cheng (US) 1: 230; 370; 7 0 Narriaevic (Cros) 1: 022; 562; 6 W Ferneira (SA) 1: 021; 216; 9 L'Ourier (US) 671: 102; 10 R Knapcek (Neth) 925; 822.

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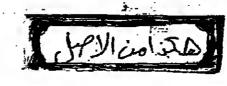
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WORLD TRIATHLON CHAMPIONSHIPS (Can-con, Mar) Loading final places: Merc 1 Stess-ing (68) 1rr 49min 29ee; 2 6 Beven (Aus) 1:49:24: 3 6 Egent (69) 1:49:50; 4 P Peter (7) 1:50:02; 6 R Gorusler (Merc 1:50:12); 6 1 Letter (8e) 1:50:20. Women: 1 K Smyors (US) 204:58; 2 J Geldgier (Nay 2:05:23; 3 1 Leuther (US) 2:05:40; 4 S Nedson (Den) 2:05:58; 6 I Nouthon (F) 2:05:34; S N Badmenn (Swid) 2:00:48.

TODAY'S NUMBER



The number of times Diego Maradona has been weked in his eight matches for Boca luniors since returning from 15-month suspension. The atest yellow card came in Sunday's 2-0 win over Banfield and means a one-match ban.



# Taylor resigns amid growing discontent

prime importance. If it does re-

turn, I see no reason why pro-

motion cannot be gained this

PHIL SHAW

Wolverhampton Wandcrers will today begin wrestling with the dilemma of wbether to go for an experienced old band or an inspirational younger man to succeed Graham Taylor, who bowed to public hostility yesterday by resigning as manager of the First Division's big

Following Sunday's 0-0 draw with Charlton, which left the preseason promotion fav- outites in

Molineux by several hundred fans, the 51-year-old former England manager spent the morning in talks with the Wolves chairman Jon-athan Hayward. Taylor was only 20 months into a three-year contract, and it is believed the pair discussed details of a financial settlement.

After four hours, both Taylor and the club secretary. Tom Finn, emerged to make terse statements. Finn, with masterful use of euphemism, explained that Hayward had "informed Mr Taylor of the board's con-

Taylor demonstration outside mances and position", after abled Wolves to have their best Birmingham, added to the pres-Molineux by several hundred which Taylor "tendered his res-season for over a decade is of sure on him, and Taylor admitignation in the best interests of e club".

Taylor, alluding to the abuse directed towards him by some supporters, then said: "This is sad because it has as much to do with matters off the pitch as those on it. Obviously the team have not been playing well. But, only 13 weeks into the season, we are still in all competi-tions. Our recent run of two defeats in 13 games is not as bad as our sterner critics claim.

"A return of confidence

among players who last year en-

season. However, a team cannot gain confidence if the board and a section of fans do not have confidence in their manager. This time last year, Wolves

led the table, only to finish fourth and miss out in the playoffs. Despite an overall outlay of £7.5m on players, Taylor has been unable to take them high-er than 12th this season. The relative success of two local rivals, West Bromwich Albion and

ted before what proved to be his swansong that there was an "undercurrent of feeling" against him. His assistant, Bobby Downes,

will take charge on a caretaker basis, but it is not a serious contender in the long term. Prior to appointing Taylor, Wolves' owner Sir Jack Hayward considered offering the job to Bryan Robson, and may now be tempted to take a chance on such a figure, perhaps even a

If so, the names of Steve

Bruce, Stuart Pearce and Chris Waddle are likely to figure strongly in his thoughts, al-though there may be an internal candidate. John de Wolf, the 32year-old Dutch defender Taylor signed from Feyenoord last December, now rivals Steve Bull in the affections of supporters and was the only player applauded off the pitch on Sunday.

In his programme notes, Jonathan Hayward hinted at a wider role for de Wolf: "He may yet pull this team from the edge of the cliff by the scruff of its neck into the land of milk and honey."

rried and trusted figurebead. Ron Arkinson would be an obvious choice. Having served as an apprentice at Molineux, un-der Stan Cullis, Atkinson may find the attraction mutual. He also has the let-out in his current post at Coventry of having installed a ready-made successor in Gordon Strachan.

Meanwhile, among compromise candidates tonted in the Midlands last night were Danny Wilson, the Barnsley playermanager, Huddersfield's Brian Horton and Millwall's Mick

Taylor's credibility gap, page 26

#### Collymore says he is sorry over outburst

Stan Collymore yesterday emerged from the headmaster's study to apologise for letting down the school by going into print about his unhappiness ar the Anfield academy.

Collymore at £8.5m the most expensive player in Britian, had a two-bour meeting with the Liverpool manager Roy Evans to discuss comments made to the magazine Four-Four-Two in which the player said he would rather quit football than spend two years in the reserves.

The outcome was statement read out by Evans, who was criticised by the striker in the ar-ticle - that Collymore would like to take this opportunity to apologise to everybody con-nected with Liverpool Foot-ball Club, including the supporters, for what on reflection has proved to be a damaging article. The interview was given in good faith to a professional journalist but I feel the essence of our interview and my feelings towards Liverpool Football Club and the game in general did not come across in the manner in which I intend-

A chastened Collymore is now "determined to share in and be a part of the future of this great club" and is looking forward to sharing many great moments together.

Evans insisted that the matter would be dealt with internally and the player has not been transfer-listed. He refused to say if Collymore faced disciplinary action.

Paul Ince is to meet Massimo Moratti, the president of Internazionale, today and unless the former Manchester United midfielder spells out his commitment to the Italian giants he could be on his way to either Newcastle or Arsenal.

Tomas Brolin yesterday denied that his transfer to Lecds United from Parma was signed and scaled. Parma said on Sunday that officials from the two clubs met for seven hours on Friday and that an agreement was on the cards.

"f don't know why they said that," Brolin said, "First, the clubs are not yet in agreement. Secondly I have not yet fixed up with Leeds.

Bill Fotherby, Leeds' managing director, also refused to confirm that Brolin was on his way to Elland Road. "My report will go before the board of directors and we will discuss it."

he said. Bolton have dismissed reports that the striker John McGinlay is on the move to Celtic. "We've heard about interest in McGinlay, but it's pure speculation," Roy Mc-Farland, the Wandcrers man-

£12.99 r.r.p.



Football Correspondent

The legal and media glare was lifted from Terry Venables yesterday – but it did not give the England coach any joy. The spotlight moved to his favourite son. Paul Gascoigne, who looks set to go into tomorrow's friendly international with Switzerland with the prospect of a police investigation hanging over him. The procurator tiscal in Scot-

land has asked Strathclyde police to examine "certain incidents" in Rangers' league match with Aberdeen on Saturday. TV evidence appeared to show him head-hutting the Ab-erdeen defender John Inglis in the chest and making contact with his elbow with Paul
Bernard. who needed five
stitches in a chin wound. Gascoigne was not booked, but

The news capped a bad day
for Gascoigne, who injured his
knee during training at Bisham
Abbev. The knee was heavily the referees' supervisor will be supplying a report to the Scot-coigne finished the session, his supplying a report to the Scot-tish Football Association.

The police inquiry will not on how quickly he recovers. necessarily centre on Gascoigne. In a rugged encounter day that the pressure of being other players, from both sides,

The police involvement comes just weeks after a threemonth jail sentence on Duncan Ferguson was confirmed by three appeal judges in Scotland. Ferguson was charged with assault after head-hutting John McStay, then of Raith, while playing for Rangers.

Rejecting Ferguson's appeal. Scotland's most senior judge. Lord Hope, the Lord Justice

o.2831. Tuesday 14 November

game for player and spectator. But he went on: "When acts go well beyond what can be regarded as normal physical contact and an assault is committed, the court has a duty to condemn and punish such conduct. It has to be made clear both to players and to the public that such criminal acts cannot be tolerated on the field of play, any more than they can be tolerated in any place in this

A footballer who assaults another player on the football field is not entitled to expect leniency from a court just because the in-cident occurred in the course of a football match.

participation tomorrow depends

Gascoigne admitted yester-Scotland's biggest celebrity was getting to him. "I feel everybody is watching me. I am in the papers every day. I do not know what they would write about if it was not for me.

I have never been in a pub. or for a night out, in Glasgow. The lads say 'Come out', but I say 'It will spoil it for you.' I have just been in the hotel for two months.

I did not expect it to be like this." That the attention should come as a surprise to Gascoigne is a mystery. A brief word with General, said the courts had no McCoist or Ferguson - neither



knee while training yesterday; (right) one of Saturday's controversial incidents

of whom are as high-profile as Gascoigne - would have told him what life as Rangers's most fa-

mous player would be like. Of Saturday's match, Gascoigne said: "I had a had press but no-one mentioned that I was spat at and punched. I had to bave the doctor look at my ribs and sides. I do not say anything about that. I just get on with it - it is not worth complaining. I get stick and I give it out.

"It was worse because I played up front, which I do not prefer. And I got fed up because the ball was not coming through - I should have gone looking for

coigne's response is worrying. He will suffer similar provocation during the European Championship next summer ables on Sunday night, when he

England may find themselves playing with 10 men. "He is going to be a target, he always has been, it is part of the game," Venables said. "He has got to handle it. He has the experience to do so and, in the main, he handles it well. There is going to be the occasional

"He is not someone who can be kicked out of a game. Some fish bowl existence is that Gastalented players, you give them coigne spends most evenings

the game: Not Paul: He is mentally and physically tough." Gascoigne had seen Ven-

and, if he cannot cope with it, rejoined the England squad, to explain Saturday's events. Yes-terday he added: "I am putting myself under too much pressure." Gascoigne said he felt unduly nervous before the game their recent defeats in Europe and the Scottish Coca-Cola

One by-product of his gold-

While understandable. Gas- a 'rap' early on, and they slip out working out in the gym. or go-page's response is worrying. the game: Not Paul: He is men-ing on long runs. "It is better than eating sandwiches or hav-ing a pint," he said. Ironically he thinks he may now be overdoing it. He said he was "shattered" on Saturday and will have to learn to pace his training better. Over-training may be a factor in his constant niggling in-

> because he felt a burden of re-sponsibility to Rangers after doubt is Gary Pallister, who did not train yesterday after suffering a migraine at the weekend. Rob Jones is already out, with a viral infection, but Gary Neville was expected to return to right-back in any event.



#### THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

22 Bats can get into this insect house? (7,8)

23 Edward commonly carries a

ing to play truant (4,3)

Countries with great potential for embarrassing slip-

ups? (6,9) Working with gravity in lightheartedness to achieve

long life (9) Difficult time when a num-

ber will be in North of Eng-land river (5)

One's attached to Cape

veapon in poor district?

CROSS Bible to supply as a small cu-

Unmoving state i.e. having nasty spasm within (7) Keeping hands off thrice in

true story? (3-12)
10 Cat in leap lacking power (5)
11 You could barely call this a
place of entertainment (5-4) It equips vessel in spell on Yorkshire river (9) Not right to guarantee result

(5) 15 Show anger about unknown character being a bit drunk 3

16 Actors one has to punish and rebuke severely (9)
18 Measure support given to poor user of hole in parapet

Throwing in towel one shows a bit of wisdom? (5)



Autobank code exhausted sweetheart? (3-2) Second mountainous attack imits Henry's indecisiveness

Honour good French female DA abandons 10 command- 8 coming up with the male she knows? (7) 13 Numberless Europeans still ments for pastoral writing commoners? (9) Independent thought? (9) Where one sleeps badly hav-15 Plant contains a centilitre of

sweet stuff (7) Two hospital departments joined European agreement

Article carried by animal coming up; it's a bit leggy (5) Cheer from some late-com-

# England in disorder as first Test approaches

Cricket

MARTIN JOHNSON reports from Johannesburg

ohannesburg lies 6,000 feet above sea level, although whether the air in this city is any thinner than England's prospects of making a winning start to the Test series in neigh-bouring Pretoria on Thursday is a moot point.

After leaving the gas mark nine temperatures of Kimberley, it is no longer possible to boil a kettle on the pavement, but the top of the chairman's bead would be a passable alternative. Raymond Illingworth is not a bappy man, and spent most of last night saying so at a team meeting in the England hotel.

If a Test series equates to a borse race. England normally have only one leg inside their jodhpurs by the time the opposition is cantering towards the home stretch, and no one knows better than their captain how crucial it is to get away to a de-

cent start. Micbael Atherton has previously been on four overseas tours with England (Australia 1990/91 and 1994/95. India 1992. West Indies 1993) and on no occasion has he arrived at the venue for the third Test match with the scoreline reading anything other than 0-2.

In fact, when he made his de-

but against Australia in 1989, be

came into the side with England

losing 0-3 after four Tests. That Edrich, as studying charging rhiwas at Trent Bridge, when annos at a South African game was at Trent Bridge, when another current player making his park. debut was singled out for spe-cial praise by Ted Dexter after taking 1 for 166. Malcolm Devon, as be was known then, also got things back to front in Kim-

berley, and entertaining though his 48 not out might have been, his bowling lacks any spark.

Apart from Angus Fraser's impressive performance in South Africa A's second innings, it was pitiful to see - despite the extreme beat - a so-called international attack unable to bowl to its field, and keep the ball consistently on one

side of the wicket.

On good batting pitches, this is as essential as top-order batsmen making sure they cash in after getting a start. England's, to a man, failed to do so, and the batting and bowling in Kimberley mirrored the lack of discipline which bas betrayed so many recent England sides. When the going gets tough, England's toughest head for the

It is enough to make you wonder whether there is any point in England going on tour with batting and bowling coach-es. John Edrich virtually had to be gelignited from the crease when he was playing Test cricket, yet during a moment of crisis last Saturday, Graham Thorpe's stumping gave the impression that he bad not so

If it seems a little premature to start fretting before a single Test match delivery has been purveyed, it is because we have seen this script all too often before. If England require an incentive to get their act together, they need only look at the itinerary and try to imagine bow much fun the match against Combined Universities at Pietermaritzburg is going to be if they have made a bash of the first three Tests.

Meantime, talking of fun, England are billeted in several square miles of armed fortress known as Sandton City. Complete with 24-hour armed security patrols, closed circuit TV, searchlights, miercoms, and everything har moat and portcullis, it is a bit like something out of Mad Max.

This place has sprung up because there is nothing more mad than venturing into Johannesburg itself, especially after dark, and entire business complexes are being moved out to Sandton. There, inside one of the hotels, you only have to make a cup of tea in your room to re-mind yourself why this country is in such a state. Thoughtfully provided, possibly as a hangover from the old days to make the drink more socially acceptable, are sachets of something called "beverage whiteners."
More cricket, page 27

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**DISCOVER WHAT** RORY'S



